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EDITORIAL NOTE

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together. Article 87(1) also makes it incumbent upon the President to address both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the Lok Sabha and at the commencement of the first Session of each year and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons. Being a statement of policy of the Government, the Address is drafted by the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies, which it desires to pursue in future with regard to important national and international issues. It also briefly touches upon the programmes and Government business slated for the Session.

At the commencement of the first Session of Parliament in the year 2007, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address delivered by the President on 23 February 2007.

This year, India is celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of her Independence. Our Founding Fathers while framing the country's Constitution opted for a parliamentary democratic system based on universal adult franchise. Our country has witnessed fourteen General Elections and also numerous elections to the State Legislative Assemblies and local bodies, involving over 700 million people. Every succeeding election is the testimony of a deeper commitment of our people to parliamentary democracy. However, we must recognize that democracy is not all about periodic elections and the political rights alone. It in essence envisages decent living to the common man through the setting up of an egalitarian society. The consolidation of social, economic and political democracy has also been one of the cardinal concerns of the Founding Fathers of our Constitution, and they wanted that prosperity should reach all sections of our people in all parts of our country. 'Health for all, education for all, home for all, jobs for all and security for all' should be the end results of democracy, which can be achieved only when the political and economic power are percolated down to the grassroots level and the right atmosphere for distributive justice prevails in the country.

Democratic consolidation is not a one-time development as the parliamentary polity is a constantly evolving one. Today, we all take pride in adapting our institutions to the specificities of the Indian situation and, in the process, developing many unique practices, rules and customs of our own. We all must work towards strengthening and furtherance of our democratic institutions and processes and shall also identify and curb all the negative tendencies that cause erosion in democratic values. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered a lecture on the topic 'Sixty Years of Independence and Democratic Consolidation in India' organised by Acharya Kripalani Memorial Trust on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the passing away of Acharya Kripalani, one of the nation's greatest leaders who untiringly strove throughout his life towards democratic consolidation in the country. We include the text of the Lecture delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee in this issue of the *Journal.*

We also carry in this issue the other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always invite and welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and all others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

–P.D.T. Achary
Editor

1

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together. The provision for an Address by the Head of State to the Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of articles 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution. Under article 86(1), the President may address either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before the Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 23 February 2007.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members:

This is a very special year for our country. We are celebrating the 60th anniversary of our Independence. This year, we also observe the 150th anniversary of the First War of Indian Independence and the Centenary of Satyagraha. These are occasions for us to renew our commitment to building a strong, modern, inclusive, secular and dynamic India.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere condolences for the innocent victims of the dastardly and cynical terrorist attack on Samjhauta Express. Our hearts go out to the families of these innocent people.

We should not allow this tragic event to affect our common quest for normalization of relations between India and Pakistan.

We meet here today at a time of great optimism about our economic performance and prospects. The last three years have recorded an average annual rate of growth of national income of over 8 per cent. By all estimates, we will grow by close to 9 per cent in the current year. This augurs well for the launch of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. My Government has set a target of attaining an annual growth rate of 9 per cent during the Eleventh Plan. Given current trends and the general policy direction, this is a feasible proposition. However, economic growth is not an end in itself. It is a means by which we hope to generate more employment, distribute incomes more equitably, across social groups and regions, and liberate the poorest of the poor from the scourge of poverty, ignorance and disease.

My Government recognizes that keeping a check on inflation is an essential element of any strategy for inclusive growth. During the first half of 2006, my Government took a number of steps to insulate our people from the fallout of the steep increase in global oil prices and a resurgence in global commodity prices. However, in recent months, the rate of inflation has shown an upward trend. As growth and investment accelerate rapidly and incomes rise, there is bound to be a rising demand for all products, particularly products of day-to-day consumption. This rise in demand has to be met by a rise in supply which takes some time to materialize. During the last eight weeks, my Government has taken a number of fiscal and monetary steps to moderate inflation. Besides, a number of steps have been taken to improve supplies of essential commodities. My Government will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure that the poor are not adversely affected by inflation. This is our solemn commitment.

To sustain the growth process and to fiscally empower the Government to address its commitment to inclusive growth, it is essential that our public finances are managed with prudence and wisdom. Fiscal responsibility is not an academic obsession. It is a prudent course of action aimed at ensuring the sustainability of our growth process, ensuring equity and keeping inflation under check.

My Government has decided that the goal of the Eleventh Plan would be to ensure that economic growth is not just faster, but also more inclusive and equitable. The Eleventh Plan strategy will aim at putting the economy on a sustainable, accelerated, growth trajectory and creating productive employment opportunities across the country in all sectors of the economy. The Approach Paper of the Eleventh Five

The President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam arriving in procession to address members of Parliament on 23 February 2007

Year Plan has identified nine major challenges facing the economy. These are: (1) regaining agricultural dynamism; (2) changing employment patterns and generating new jobs; (3) providing essential public services to the poor; (4) increasing manufacturing competitiveness; (5) developing human resources; (6) building world class infrastructure; (7) protecting the environment; (8) improving rehabilitation and resettlement practices; and (9) improving governance. By addressing these challenges, we will address the larger challenge of inclusive growth.

My Government is building a new architecture of inclusive growth. This architecture consists of *Bharat Nirman*, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the National Rural Health Mission, the strengthened and expanded *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, the universalisation of the Mid-day Meal and ICDS Programmes and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Considerable progress has been made under each of these flagship programmes of the Government. Most yearly targets have been met for projects undertaken through *Bharat Nirman*, except in a few States. Programmes for rural roads, rural electrification, rural telephony, rural housing and rural drinking water supply are on track. States that are lagging behind, especially the less developed parts of the country have been urged to pay greater attention to the implementation issues.

The National Rural Health Mission aims to improve the health status of the people through a partnership between the Central and State Governments, *Panchayati Raj* institutions and the community in the management of primary health facilities. The Mission is focused on improving public health indicators through decentralised district level planning. About 3.2 lakh village-based accredited women social health activists (ASHA) have so far been inducted in 18 demographically weaker States.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is under implementation in 63 cities. City Development Plans have already been prepared for 61 cities, charting out their vision and goals in urban governance and development. These plans also include investment plans with a focus on provision of city-wide urban infrastructure services such as water supply, sanitation, drainage, basic services and social housing to the urban poor. So far, 102 projects for slum improvement and development have been sanctioned. Our cities desperately need major reform of urban governance and improved and democratic functioning of our municipalities. This is being encouraged and a new draft law to facilitate street vendors is being finalized in consultation with all the stakeholders.

Each of these programmes will generate additional employment, a major focus area of my Government. A sustained increase in the rate of investment, which has touched a record level of 34 per cent of GDP, will generate additional employment. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) passed by my Government has emerged as a very major programme both for providing a social safety net to the poor as well as for building rural infrastructure. Over 1.4 crore households have benefited under the scheme operational in 200 districts. Over 500,000 works are under operation under the NREGA in different parts of the country of which over half is in the area of water conservation and drought proofing, contributing to rebuilding of the natural resource base. A social safety net of this dimension has never been undertaken in the world. Therefore it is being observed with great interest. My Government is committed to covering the whole country under the NREGA in five years from the coming into force of it and more districts will be taken up in the next year.

Mahatma Gandhi's vision of *Gram Swaraj* was given a legal framework through the efforts of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. My Government is committed to deepening *Panchayati Raj* and therefore has taken up the task of strengthening decentralized district planning through an integrated plan for removal of backwardness in 250 districts. The Backward Regions Grant Fund is designed to fill gaps in critical development interventions based on local assessments.

My Government attaches highest importance to education. As a nation of young people, India will be able to gain from a demographic dividend only if we invest in the capabilities and the intellectual and emotional development of our children. There has been a quantum leap in the funds allocated for primary and secondary education during the last three years. The strengthened *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and Mid-day Meal Programme reaffirm our commitment to the empowerment of our children through education. Under the *Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya* Scheme, over 2000 new residential schools at upper primary level have been sanctioned in the last 3 years for girls belonging predominantly to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities.

The rights of women and children and their aspirations are of paramount importance in our march towards an inclusive and equitable society. Keeping in view the Constitutional provisions and in order to give greater focus to issues relating of women and children, an independent Ministry of Women & Child Development has been created. This emphasizes the importance being given to women as equal partners in development. Landmark legislations that ensure women's safety and protecting them

from domestic violence have been enacted. Investment in the well-being of children is an investment for the future of the country. Eradication of malnutrition is receiving topmost priority, including through a rapid expansion of *anganwadis* whose numbers will reach one million soon. At the same time issues relating to child protection are high on my Government's agenda.

The focus of our efforts in higher education is to revitalise the system, expand access and build new institutions of excellence. My Government attaches great importance to increasing access to education for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and the socially and educationally backward sections among the Minorities. It is also committed to rewarding hard work and merit among all the students. The National Knowledge Commission has submitted its first report placing emphasis on the need to invest in education at all levels of the knowledge pyramid. My Government is committed to revitalizing vocational and technical education. Several new Indian Institutes of Science, Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Information Technology are proposed to be set up in various parts of the country. New Central Universities are being set up in the North Eastern region.

My Government is committed to providing food security to the poor and is taking further steps to strengthen the public distribution system. Wheat production has been low but wheat stocks have been replenished in order to control the rise in prices. At the same time, the minimum support prices for wheat and coarse cereals have been suitably enhanced as an incentive for higher production. Timely and appropriate decisions have improved the lot of sugarcane farmers, reducing sugarcane arrears to an all time low. For coordinated and focused attention on the issues of dryland and rainfed farming, the National Rainfed Area Authority has been set up to guide policy in this regard. The National Fisheries Development Board has been set up to enhance the productivity of our marine and inland fisheries. The National Horticulture Mission is helping farmers diversify into more income generating crops.

Honourable members are already aware of the steep increase in credit availability for agriculture. The target of doubling the credit flow to agriculture and allied activities has been met. A Rs.13,000 crore package for the revival of the cooperative credit structure has also been worked out and is under implementation. To give a thrust to agricultural research and transfer new technologies to the field, a National Agriculture Innovation Project (NAIP) has been approved. Efforts are also on for improving productivity of plantation crops like Coconut, Tea and Coffee and several new schemes have been formulated.

A special package amounting to more than Rs.16,000 crore is being implemented in 31 districts, worst affected by farmers' suicides. The interventions cover short term as well as long term measures and address issues of credit, irrigation facilities, agriculture inputs and alternative sources of income. An expert group is looking into the problem of agricultural indebtedness and will suggest measures to provide relief to the farmers in distress.

Taken together, all these initiatives of my Government will increase the rate of investment in agriculture, enhance production and productivity growth, increase farmers' incomes and welfare and unleash the Second Green Revolution. It is heartening that agricultural growth in 2005-06 was 6 per cent. However, this needs to be sustained through credible measures which maintain a high rate of investment bring new technologies and farming systems into use, improve marketing channels, provide better risk management facilities and generate better returns to our farmers. This my Government committed to do.

Acquisition of agricultural land for industrial development and related purposes and the terms of compensation have become issues of major public concern in our country. On the one hand there are genuine concerns of farmers regarding acquisition of agricultural land and on the other hand, there is a need to use land to generate employment through industry and related activities. Therefore, issues of humane rehabilitation and the need for fair pricing of agricultural land need to be addressed both in policy and in law. My Government is committed to bringing in a new rehabilitation policy which will be backed by amendments in the Land Acquisition Act wherever necessary.

My Government recognizes the serious nature of the problem of water availability and water use, both in agriculture and in the urban economy. We need a social consensus on water management practices, including participatory irrigation management; regulated use and conservation of water; timely completion of irrigation projects and maintenance of existing projects to ensure water availability to the farmers; improved ground water recharge and rain water harvesting. My Government is committed to developing both the irrigation potential of the country and its hydro-power potential.

Taking care of our environment and ensuring ecological sustainability of our growth process is a major challenge, nationally as well as globally. The threat of climate change and global warming will have adverse consequences for life on our planet and for our development prospects. We need economically affordable, technologically feasible and socially equitable policies to deal with the challenge of sustainable development.

Drawing on the wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi who said, "the Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed", the international community must evolve a framework for sustainable development that takes into account the growth aspirations of the developing world. India is committed to promote environmentally sustainable development strategies. A major programme for massive afforestation of degraded forest lands, "Green India", is under active consideration of my Government.

Our Wild Life is our invaluable heritage. My Government took several corrective steps for sanctuaries on the basis of the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force. A Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted as well as a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. The Government proposes to strengthen activities for environment education and respect for wildlife through the school curriculum.

My Government recognizes the vital importance of the food processing sector in improving the incomes of the farming community and generating employment in the rural areas. The Government's Vision 2015 for the sector aims to triple the size of the food sector in the next decade. A National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management is proposed to be set up. With a view to ensuring that our food sector matches up to the best global standards, my Government enacted an integrated food law called the Food Safely and Standards Act, 2006, and a Food Safety Authority is being established shortly. This autonomous Authority will set standards and license the manufacture of food products which are healthy and safe.

The focus on "inclusive growth" has also meant giving special attention to the needs of the weaker sections of our society. My Government attaches great importance to social justice and to the social, educational and economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities, women and children. Education empowers by creating capabilities. Hence, my Government has extended scholarships to SC and ST students and widened access to higher education for OBCs. To empower the most deprived among the Scheduled Castes, my Government has launched a new "Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers Scheme". My Government has made considerable progress in filling the backlog of unfilled reserved posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and is committed to filling up the rest.

At its last session, the Parliament enacted a historic bill to provide rights over land to the Scheduled Tribes and the forest dwellers on land historically in their occupation but classified as forests. This is a path-breaking legislation which will provide security to these sections, prevent their harassment and enhance their livelihoods. We have formulated

National Tribal Policy addressing important concerns of the tribal community.

My Government is committed to the welfare of the minorities, especially the most backward among them. A separate Ministry of Minority Affairs has been created to ensure focused attention on the welfare of all our minorities. A High Level Committee chaired by Justice Rajindar Sachar was appointed to report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India. The report was tabled in the Parliament on 30 November, 2006 and will be discussed in this Session. We will take all measures necessary to ensure that the fruits of development are shared equitably and backward minority groups become active participants and beneficiaries of our growth processes. My Government is considering the formulation of a programme for those districts and towns that have the highest concentration of minority populations.

The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities was adopted last year. The programme has identified certain important developmental schemes and created a mechanism to ensure that the benefits of these schemes flow equitably to the minority communities also. Certain minority communities continue to remain relatively backward, with a large number of out-of-school children, high dropout rates and low educational attainments. These require focused intervention. In addition to the existing schemes, my Government proposes to introduce comprehensive scholarship schemes from primary to post graduate levels for the eligible students belonging to the minorities. My Government firmly commits itself to equity and welfare of all the sections of society.

To sustain the growth process we have to ensure energy security. Accelerated economic development and growing demand for commercial energy require a new paradigm of energy security for India. There is urgent need for a national consensus on energy pricing and distribution policies. My Government is conscious of the need to augment energy supplies from both conventional and renewable sources. The coal sector will continue to remain the mainstay of energy security for the country. Therefore, it is imperative that coal production is substantially increased in the coming years. A number of steps have been taken to achieve this objective. Simultaneously, my Government will encourage new investment in power generation. Competitive tariff bids have already been approved for setting up of two Ultra Mega Power Projects and further efforts in this direction will continue. The tremendous hydropower potential in the country will also be harnessed with the cooperation and willing support of the State Governments concerned. My Government has taken important steps to help develop the full potential of civilian nuclear energy and of

all sources of renewable energy, both for meeting energy needs and to address the concerns on environment.

My Government has placed great emphasis on building world class infrastructure in our country. The National Highway Development Programme has been greatly expanded with an investment target of Rs.227.000 crore. The Golden Quadrilateral is nearing completion. Work for construction of the North-South and East-West corridors has also been awarded. The Government has also approved 4-laning of around 4,000 km of national highways and 6-laning of 6,500 km of national highways, including the Golden Quadrilateral. My Government is implementing the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North-East, keeping in view the urgent need to improve connectivity to the region.

My Government has succeeded in ensuring a turnaround of Indian Railways. Over the last 30 months, railway freight volumes have grown by 8-10 per cent and growth in passenger volumes has doubled. Container business has been opened up to the private businesses. As a result of improved supply and demand management, rational utilization of capacity and a market-driven pricing policy, Indian Railways are once again on the track. It is necessary that this momentum is maintained. For this, modernization and creation of additional infrastructure would be vital. Infrastructure development through public private partnerships will be promoted. There has been an encouraging response to the offer to allow private container trains. Preliminary work on the proposed Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor has begun. The project will provide the necessary infrastructure support for growth in container, coal and other mineral traffic. This project is proceeding on a fast track basis and a Special Purpose Vehicle called the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited has been formed to implement the project.

The civil aviation sector has witnessed unprecedented growth in recent years. My Government has initiated the modernization of major airports in the country and liberalization of air services to cope with rapidly growing air traffic demand. Investment in airport development is on an upswing.

In order to keep pace with our fast increasing share of global trade, my Government has taken up a programme for massive capacity expansion of port infrastructure. An Indian maritime University is proposed to be set up in Chennai with regional campuses at Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam. Stretches of Godavari and Mahanadi are also proposed to be declared as inland waterways.

My Government has made serious attempts to promote Public Private

Partnerships as a strategy for building infrastructure such as roads, ports, airports and power generation. Such a strategy brings in additional investment which adds to limited public sector resources. Further, private sector efficiency results in lower costs, quicker completion of projects and better delivery of services. Substantial improvements can be seen in these sectors as a result of these efforts.

Honourable members will be happy to learn that in 2006-07 the rate of growth of manufacturing sector output was estimated at close to 11 per cent. The performance of key sectors, like the automotive industry, textiles, pharmaceuticals, steel, petrochemicals, cement and so on has been impressive. We have clearly succeeded in re-energising domestic enterprise. The National Strategy for Manufacturing prepared by the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council provides a basis for accelerated industrial and employment growth. An Automotive Mission Plan 2006-2016 has been prepared to provide the framework for the growth of the auto sector in India. The industrial sector has also benefited from increased inflows of foreign direct investment. Here too, FDI inflows have exceeded US$10 billion this year and also exceeded FII inflows for the first time ever.

It is a matter of satisfaction that our textile industry has been able to generate considerable employment and promote exports and improve its performance in the post-Multi Fibre Agreement regime. A focused approach to helping weavers is in place with an increase in the number of cluster development centers, more yarn depots, support to technology upgradation, health and life insurance programmes for weavers and a new "Handloom Mark" for branding handloom products.

My Government has restructured the Kendriya Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industries has been set up at Wardha to further promote rural industries which provide gainful employment to a very large section of our rural population. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act 2006 has become operational. This will facilitate the promotion, development and enhancement of competitiveness of these enterprises. My Government is committed to providing a minimum social safety net for workers in the unorganized sector and a draft law for this purpose is under consideration. My Government will launch a massive skill development programme to improve the skills and capabilities of our work force through a Mission on Vocational Education and other initiatives. This is essential if we have to take advantage of the demographic dividend that we are going to have through an increasingly youthful workforce.

Our Information Technology sector continues to develop and remain

globally competitive. The year 2007 will be the Year of Broadband. We are committed to bridging the digital divide by providing broadband coverage throughout the country. My Government is encouraging the growth of the electronic hardware industry and the semiconductor industry. My Government will take forward the National Identity Car Project under the National e-Governance Plan for nationwide roll-out in a phased manner so as to ensure better delivery of services to our citizens.

Tourism has enormous potential and we are already seeing its benefits. In recent months, there has been an impressive growth in foreign tourist arrivals, foreign exchange earnings and employment generation. However, given the potential of tourism and India's rich heritage and diversity, we can do much more to increase the number of domestic as well as foreign tourists. Apart from improving the quality of tourism infrastructure, my Government is encouraging public private partnerships in tourism across the country.

To sustain our efforts in the advanced fields of modern science and technology we must increase the number of scientists and improve the quality of Indian science. My Government is deeply concerned about the inadequate enrolment of students in basic sciences and that Indian science is lagging behind other newly industrializing economies. India needs a new thrust in the field of science and technology. There is also a need to energise our university system and enable it to respond to the pressures of the market so that it can retain and attract talent.

A Vision for the development of an empowered S&T base by 2015 has been prepared. Steps will be taken to attract talent, rejuvenate university research, enable women scientists to re-enter careers in science, strengthen technology business incubation processes, promote excellence in research, engage private sector in R&D and create greater science awareness and a scientific temper among our people. My Government intends to increase the financial allocation for science and technology from less than 1 per cent of GDP to 2 per cent of GDP.

Our scientists have distinguished themselves in the fields of nuclear energy, space, bio-technology, genetics and pharmaceuticals. This year has witnessed impressive achievements in our space programme. The recent ninth consecutive successful launch of PSLV, placing four satellites precisely in predetermined orbit, and the Space Capsule Recovery Experiment as also the progress being made in preparation for the Chandrayaan Mission testify to the well-deserved reputation for excellence that ISRO and our space programme enjoy. The Department of Atomic Energy, which is engaged in harnessing nuclear technology to produce safe, economic and eco-friendly energy using indigenous resources, has brought

on stream the indigenously developed, 540 MWe Units 3 & 4 at Tarapur. We are committed to the development of our indigenous three stage nuclear programme.

My Government is paying special attention to the modernization of the police forces, security forces and intelligence agencies. A focused and holistic attempt to deal with the challenges of internal security in the North Eastern Region, in Jammu and Kashmir and in regions affected by naxalite activity is yielding dividends. My Government recognizes the challenge posed by terrorism and extremism and has been resolute in dealing with it. While our security and intelligence agencies have successfully foiled many attempts by terrorist groups to strike terror, there have been tragic, dastardly and cowardly acts of terrorism, as in Mumbai and Assam and, most recently, in the attack on Samjhauta Express. My Government is dealing firmly with the challenge posed.

While ensuring law and order and internal security in the North east, Jammu and Kashmir and naxalite affected regions, my Government will remain focused on the overall social, economic and cultural development of these parts of our country, aimed at ensuring the active participation of all sections of our society in the national mainstream. My Government will continue to impart a healing touch both in Jammu and Kashmir and in the North East, while maintaining utmost vigil against terrorist and extremist forces. My Government attaches highest importance to ensuring that all agencies respect basic human rights, even in the most trying circumstances.

There is growing public concern about urban crime and violence, especially involving the children and women. My Government is committed to making our police forces more sensitive to the concerns and needs of our citizens, and more efficient and humane in responding to them.

My Government is committed to judicial reforms aimed at speeding up the justice delivery system and ensuring greater efficiency, transparency and integrity in our judicial system, especially where it impacts on the welfare of our citizens. A Bill for setting up the National Judicial Council for greater accountability and transparency in the judiciary has already been tabled in Parliament. The *Grameen Nyayalay Bill* for setting up people-friendly local courts with flexibility of procedures for speedier disposal of petty cases, is on the anvil.

The defence of the country is an unshakeable commitment of my Government. At a time when new and unconventional threats to national security are increasingly visible, even while the strategic environment continues to be fragile, the Government shall maintain focus on

strengthening the defence of the country. We shall provide our Armed Forces with the best possible means to do so. My Government is investing in the modernization of our Armed Forces and of our indigenous defence industry, to make them fully capable of dealing with existing and emerging challenges. Our Armed Forces have also been engaged in cooperative exercises with many partner countries, and their performance has invariably come in for praise. The nation is grateful to them for their contribution. The welfare of our ex-servicemen is a priority of my Government.

My Government's foreign policy has been shaped by the desire to create an external environment conducive to peace and stability in the region, ensuring our accelerated economic development and safeguarding of our national security. In pursuit of this enlightened national interest, my Government has undertaken a comprehensive engagement with the world—with all the major powers, with our extended neighbourhood and with our partners in the developing world and the Non-aligned Movement.

Recently in February, we signed a new India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty in place of the earlier one of 1949. The new Treaty updates the legal basis of our bilateral relations to reflect the contemporary reality. It would enable us to further strengthen and enhance our relationship to a higher level to meet the aspirations of our two peoples. We have reiterated our full support to the restoration of multi-party democracy in Nepal and the success of the peace process. As a friend and neighbour, India is interested in a democratic, stable and prosperous Bangladesh. We have conveyed at high political levels to Sri Lankan leaders the need for a negotiated political settlement to the ethnic issue that is acceptable to all sections of Sri Lankan society. It is a matter of satisfaction that the dialogue process with Pakistan is progressing steadily. The Composite Dialogue, the Joint Commission and the Anti-terrorism Institutional Mechanism have provided a structural framework within which all the major issues are being discussed. We remain concerned over infiltration and cross-border terrorism, and the success of the dialogue process is predicated on Pakistan fulfilling its commitment not to permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

In April this year, India will host the 14th SAARC Summit. As the SAARC Chair, India will work for ensuring that SAARC becomes a vehicle for peace and progress in our region. The people of South Asia have a shared heritage and a shared destiny. We are particularly happy that Afghanistan will join as SAARC's eighth Member at the forthcoming Summit. The importance of India-Afghanistan relations was underlined

at the second Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan in November 2006 co-hosted by India and Afghanistan.

The transformation in the India-US bilateral relationship has resulted in wide-ranging engagement across many fields including defence and security issues, counter-terrorism, science and technology, health, trade, space, energy-including nuclear energy, agriculture, maritime cooperation and environment. Members are aware of our efforts to arrive at an agreement with the US on civil nuclear energy cooperation within the parameters laid out in the July 18, 2005 India-US Joint Statement and the March 2, 2006 Separation Plan. India shares a strategic partnership with the European Union (EU) which covers a wide range of areas including trade and investment, culture, science and technology. Negotiations are to be launched on a broad-based India-EU trade and investment agreement.

The recent landmark visit of President Putin as the Chief Guest at our Republic Day highlighted the broad-based cooperation that marks India's long-standing relationship with Russia. The development of the Brahmos missile through a joint venture between our countries demonstrates the mutual benefits of our cooperation. The agreements reached during the visit will significantly expand our cooperation in the fields of energy, high technology, defence and space. The strategic partnership between India and Russia is poised to deepen even further.

The visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to India in November 2006 strengthened the process of sustained and comprehensive development of India-China relations. The two countries agreed on a 10-pronged strategy to add greater content to our strategic partnership and to develop an action oriented agenda for the future.

India's "Look East Policy" has contributed to increasing engagement with ASEAN and our East Asian neighbourhood. India's participation in the East Asian and India-ASEAN Summits has rejuvenated our ancient links with the region and strengthened economic ties. Singapore, China, Japan, Korea and other countries have shown great interest in the "Nalanda Project" which seeks to create an Asian centre for inter-civilisational dialogue in India.

India's relations with Japan have entered a new era with the launch of a Global and Strategic Partnership last year. A Special Economic Partnership Initiative will promote investment, especially in infrastructure, power generation and setting up of an industrial corridor. Negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement are underway. We look forward to the visit of Prime Minister Abe later this year.

At the Non-Aligned Summit last year, India worked with the other members to bring development to the center of the international agenda. My Government is actively pursuing strengthened relations with countries of West Asia and the Persian Gulf region. We would like to see durable peace and stability in the region. We have called on all parties in West Asia to renounce violence and seek a comprehensive solution through peaceful negotiations taking into account the legitimate interest of all concerned. My Government has also reiterated its desire to see a stable, peaceful, prosperous, united and democratic Iraq. The visits to India of the Emir of Kuwait and the King of Jordan following that of HM the King of Saudi Arabia last year, and the recent visit of the External Affairs Minister to Iran highlight the importance attached to our enduring interests in this region, vital for energy security and employment opportunities for Indians. India has also been working to further deepen and diversify its relations with countries in Africa and Latin America. India's relations with South Africa and Brazil received a fillip last year. The historic India-Brazil-South Africa Summit brought together the largest democracies of Asia, Africa and Latin America revitalizing our commitment to South-South cooperation. The Pan African e-Network which is being implemented with our support has provided a unique platform to promote high tech collaboration between Africa and India.

My Government has paid special attention to the protection and welfare of overseas Indian workers, especially those in West Asia and the Gulf. We admire their spirit of enterprise and would like to see them more actively engaged in India's development. The Overseas Citizen of India Card scheme has addressed a long-standing demand of persons of Indian origin. We are now working on a proposal to establish a PIO University in India. My Government will take steps to encourage a "reverse brain drain" so that some of the brightest and talented children of India return to their Motherland.

India has welcomed the resumption of negotiations across all areas of the Doha Round in the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to reaching an early positive conclusion. In order to break the impasse, developed countries must make meaningful offers to reduce the large trade-distorting subsidies provided to their agriculture sector. At the same time, the role of agriculture as a major source of livelihood in developing countries makes it imperative that governments are enabled to mitigate risks associated with price declines, price volatility and predatory competition facing their low-income and vulnerable farmers through appropriate policy flexibilities. Equally important is increased market access for products and services of export interest to developing

countries to ensure that the Doha Round is indeed a Development Round.

Honourable members, our country is on the threshold of a new era of development. The sense of confidence of our working people, our professionals and entrepreneurs and their dynamism give us reasons to be hopeful. However, my Government recognizes that for development to be meaningful it must be inclusive. To this end, it is necessary to revitalise our rural economy and address issues of widening rural-urban disparities. The reform of Government, making it more transparent and responsive, and the elimination of the cancer of corruption are necessary elements of any strategy of inclusive growth. The Right to Information Act is one means of empowering our citizens. The more powerful instrument in their hands is their right to have their voice heard and their grievances redressed in these august premises of our Parliament. Eternal vigilance, as it has been said, is the price of democracy. You, Honourable members, are here as the representatives of our people. It is incumbent upon you to ensure through the great institutions of our democracy that the people of our country are the recipients of better governance. I hope you will put to good use the power at your disposal in the interests of our people and our nation. I convey my best wishes for the purposeful conduct of the proceedings of Parliament this year.

Jai Hind!

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE FIRST ACHARYA KRIPALANI MEMORIAL LECTURE ON SIXTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION IN INDIA

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the First Acharya Kripalani Memorial Lecture on Sixty Years of Independence and Democratic Consolidation in India at New Delhi on 17 March 2007.

We reproduce below the text of the Lecture delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

—Editor

Shri Shanti Bhushan; Shri Suresh Dutt; Shri Ravindra Nath Upadhyay; Shri Ram Bahadur; Other Office-bearers and Members of the Acharya Kripalani Memorial Trust; Distinguished Guests; and Ladies and Gentlemen:

I feel greatly honoured and privileged to have been invited to deliver the First Lecture organized in honour of Late Acharya J.B. Kripalani, one of the tallest leaders of our Freedom Movement who passed away in 1982. An idealist, a revered academician, eminent parliamentarian, crusader for social justice and a staunch votary of value-based politics in the country, Acharya Kripalani was indeed a multi-faceted personality. I pay my respectful homage to his memory and wish to compliment the Trust named after him for organising this Lecture Series.

Friends, Acharya Kripalani had abiding faith in and unwavering commitment to the cause of parliamentary democracy and socio-economic justice to the teeming millions of our country. He was a devout Gandhian, valiant freedom fighter and a committed socialist. A well-known academician, he was associated with the Banaras Hindu University as a Professor of Political Science and later served as the Principal of the Gujarat *Vidyapith*, a well-known institution for imparting value-based education to its students, which was founded by Gandhiji. Here he came to be known as the *'Acharya'* and Gandhiji fondly called him 'Professor' and he entrusted him with the responsibility of implementing his constructive programmes, particularly those relating to communal

harmony, removal of untouchability, promotion of *Khadi,* rural development and education.

An eminent parliamentarian, Acharya Kripalani was a political leader of unimpeachable integrity and fierce independence. A resolute and articulate advocate of democratic and parliamentary form of governance, he served the country as a member of the Constituent Assembly, and was entrusted with the responsibility of the Chairmanship of the very important Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights. He was elected to the Lok Sabha four times, and he consistently declined to accept any ministerial post. Kripalaniji would forever be remembered for his courage of conviction and service to the people.

Acharya Kripalani devoted his entire life to the cause of the common people and for the promotion of democratic values and norms in the country. As we are moving towards the diamond jubilee of our freedom and observing the 25th Anniversary of the passing away of one of the nation's great leaders, it is as a tribute to the memory of Kripalani ji that I have chosen to speak on the theme *'Sixty Years of Independence and Democratic Consolidation in India',* before this august gathering today.

From the very beginning, the basic objective of the leaders of our Freedom Movement was the establishment of a democratic political order recognizing the fundamental rights of the people, which will ensure social and economic emancipation of the people, having just gained their freedom from slavery under foreign rule. Our Founding Fathers while framing the country's Constitution opted for a parliamentary democratic system based on universal adult franchise, which will promote the well-being, and raise the standard of life and provide decent living to the common man through the setting up of an egalitarian society. Alladi Krishaswami Ayyar, one of the leading members of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution said that '... a labourer, a cultivator or a tenant ... (can be) expected to know what his interests are and to choose his representatives.' Through the past six decades, our people have proven time and again that they are capable of meeting the demands of a democratic system.

The Constitution provides that the fundamental social and political objectives of Free India was to be achieved in a democratic manner, through the parliamentary form of governance, a multi party system, free and fair elections, an independent Judiciary, a vigilant and responsible media, and an alert civil society striving for the common national weal.

The first General Election of 1952 was the biggest free electoral

exercise known till then anywhere in the world. As against 35 million voters in the election to the Provincial Legislative Assemblies that elected the members of the Constituent Assembly, the 1952 election saw 176, million voters. Today, our democratic exercise involves over 700 million people.

We have successfully come through fourteen General Elections, and numerous elections to the State Assemblies and local bodies, and after experimenting with fairly stable governments and political life, our people have proved that democracy is well established in the country and that there is no substitute for the same.

Today, the poor and the rich, the illiterate and the literate, the farmer and the professional, are all entitled to participate in our democratic political system. Going by the number of political parties represented in the Parliament and by the wider socio-economic and occupational background of the members elected to the Houses, it is clear that the Parliament has become more and more representative of a larger cross-section of our society, thereby enhancing its legitimacy and importance.

Our people have shown to the world their unquestionable capability and commitment to work a democratic system in the country; and when they felt necessary to bring about changes in the Government, with enormous sense of responsibility and uncanny wisdom, as happened in 6 out of 14 times that we went through the general elections—in most cases, proving the political *pundits* and astrologers wrong. In fact, every succeeding election has reflected a deeper commitment of our people to the parliamentary democracy.

In the last six decades of freedom, no doubt, we have made remarkable achievements on almost all areas of national life. On the economic front, we have made significant strides, taking a substantial segment of our people from below the poverty line to a level of dignified existence. Our planned efforts of the last five decades have helped us, to a considerable extent, in mitigating the extent of privations of the colonial era and in building India into a nation of considerable economic strength within the framework of democracy, federalism and a policy of self-reliance. Our achievements in the field of IT and our extremely talented human resources are areas about which we can be proud. There is today a sea change not only in the world's perception about India's future, but also in our own perception about ourselves. The world is beginning to acknowledge India as a significant player in the world economy.

On the social front also we have made noticeable achievements. Over the years, with the effective State Intervention, we have striven with varying degrees of success, to address the issue of the political, social and economic exclusion of a sizable segment of our population and of their empowerment by bringing them into our national mainstream. We sought to achieve these seemingly impossible tasks, precipitated by historical forces, by taking recourse to progressive legislation and by adopting a policy of protective discrimination.

Several progressive legislations that independent India adopted with a view to bringing about social change, to provide for comprehensive land reforms, to help provide just and humane conditions of work, to provide protection to women against violence, to broaden the base of democracy and for the increased participation of women in politics, to regulate the practice of dowry, to safeguard the vulnerable sections against social discrimination and violence and atrocities, to check the practice of child marriages, to prevent child labour, to promote the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of our society, to ensure rural employment and thereby to address rural poverty, to ensure access to citizens to information having a bearing on policy and administration, among others, have all significantly contributed to the process of democratic consolidation in the country. No doubt, there is a need to give more thrust to the enforcement of existing laws, in several areas.

The passage of the 73rd and 74th Amendments to our Constitution, which is a step towards giving true meaning and content to the *Panchayati Raj* system and thereby for effective decentralization of power, has created a new horizon for participatory democracy and social transformation in the country. Through this, the people now have an opportunity to raise their voice and have a direct role in the developmental process. The greatest benefits which local self-governance offers to the people, to my mind, is that a large number of women, *dalits* and other marginalised classes have come to be part of the processes of decision making and thus of the governance structure itself. However, this process will remain incomplete if the benefit of increased women's representation in elected bodies is not extended to the State and the National levels also.

Friends, a parliamentary polity is a constantly evolving one. It is dynamic, and keeps on developing to suit the changing needs, newer aspirations and hopes of the people, and that is its greatest advantage. Today, we can legitimately take pride in adapting our institutions to the specificities of the Indian situation and, in the process, developing many unique practices, rules and customs of our own.

Democratic institution-building needs to be sustained by everyone associated with it. We need to develop a healthy political culture in the country. The leaders of all the political parties have the most crucial role in it. They are expected to be role-models for the people. The image of intrigue, venality, disorder and anarchy, that the people are associating with politics and public life in the country today needs to be corrected urgently, so that our people begin to view politics as a respectable profession in the service of the society as was perceived during the long years of our struggle for freedom. There is an imperative need for effective political polarisation around issues that are vital to all the classes and categories of our diverse population, rather than around personalities, dehors policies and programmes based on emotive and divisive issues.

The political parties, as the medium of political mobilization, have to be fully alive to the perils of confrontational and divisive politics, politics of exclusion, corrupt practices in the political arena and all forms of corruption, and then only such detrimental tendencies can be substantially checked. Taking recourse to illegal and immoral practices and to money power and muscle power for winning elections by some sections have led to the considerable degeneration of the sanctity of the electoral system and the erosion of the true representative and democratic character of our polity. As Dr. Ambedkar said: 'The Constitution can provide only the organs of State such as the Legislatures, the Executive and the Judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs depend are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics.'

To consolidate our system of governance, all constitutional bodies and institutions should function in harmony and in conformity with the fundamental law of the land. The Legislature must reflect the urges and aspirations of the people and the larger national causes as opposed to narrow partisan politics, the Executive should effectively and successfully address the concerns of the people, and the Judiciary, as an independent arbiter, must dispense speedy and inexpensive justice to every section of our society. If these organs of the State operate according to the constitutional mandate, the scope for conflict in the exercise of powers and privileges will be minimal.

Our Founding Fathers had visualized that our Legislative bodies should articulate social and economic issues and formulate policies after deliberation and debate in a manner consistent with the constitutional obligations and maintaining the dignity and decorum of the elected bodies. But, unfortunately, there is a justified feeling among the people

that over the years there has been a decline in the standards of our representative bodies. Debates and discussion, the hallmarks of democracy, are being over-shadowed by disruption, confrontation and other non-democratic alternatives. The scenes of disorder and chaos and even destruction of public property associated with the functioning of our representative bodies, the reducing space for debate and discussion and the growing demonstration of intolerance towards opposite ideologies, and the spread of the politics of hatred, do not serve the long-term interests of our polity or society. Our representative institutions should be greatly concerned about the growing scepticism and cynicism among our people about the efficacy of democracy and endeavour to restore the true democratic culture. Intolerance and denial of rights of others are antithetical to democracy. We all need to remind ourselves, time and again, that democracy is a system based on dialogue and debate and on people's confidence. It can thrive only if everyone involved demonstrates the spirit of tolerance, dignified behaviour and an unconditional commitment to submit oneself to the norms of sound democratic practices.

The legislators in our country have the special responsibility of respecting adequately and faithfully the verdict of the people, who are the real masters in a democracy. If they are perceived to be self-seekers and unconcerned about the discharge of their responsibility, the people, specially the youth, will lose faith in the system as a whole.

Unfortunately, of late, I am getting a feeling that many of our well-conceived parliamentary devices are considered to be dispensable luxuries for our system. Devices like the Question Hour are seen by some sections in the Parliament and the Legislatures to be totally avoidable democratic extravaganzas. It was thoughtfully introduced into the Constitution and the Parliamentary Practice and Procedures, as an important mechanism to hold the Executive accountable to the people through their representatives. Often, some sections prefer the adjournment of the House and thereby the denial of an opportunity to present and discuss people's problems before the Parliament and through it before the Government rather than subscribe to the established and accepted norms of parliamentary functioning. As a distinguished columnist, Shri Inder Malhotra stated in anguish recently:

> The flip side of these distant memories (*of the finest parliamentary traditions of the early years of the Republic*) is the misfortune to have to watch and comment on the consistent, persistent and pernicious decline in parliamentary behaviour, and thus of Parliament's dignity, authority and prestige. Sadly, if things go

> on deteriorating, as they are, Parliament, the center-piece of this country's democratic institutions, could become dysfunctional.

The institution must function in a civilized and dignified manner. It is important for everyone interested in sustaining democracy in the country to bear in mind that democratic consolidation cannot be realized by undermining institutions which are integral to it.

A great deal of responsibility lies on the media. It is expected to be fair, free and authentic in its coverage of issues, events and individuals. They would do well to ensure the trust of the people in our representative bodies. More importantly, they must ensure that the democratic institutions are projected to the people at large in such a manner which reinforces people's faith in our parliamentary system. An independent Judiciary and a free Press are at once a product as also a symbol of a democratic society. We all know how they have flourished in India since Independence. They draw strength from the system as also infuse strength into the system. They are meant to reinforce one another. The recent comments by one of the most respected members of the Fourth Estate, Shri Kuldip Nayar, merits to be mentioned here: Highlighting the importance of giving due space to the Parliament in the media he said, what everybody should ponder:

> Serious stories which include the Parliamentary proceedings, do not make the grade (for the media). The media has come to believe that people do not want to read anything which makes them think. Today, the print media is suffering from a mad disease which has played havoc with our newspapers. It is the tabloid syndrome. ...

While recognizing that over the past six decades of freedom and democracy we have made significant strides on the socio-economic and the political fronts, we also have to admit our non-achievements on several areas which have resulted in depriving substantial sections of our people of the benefit of a healthy and dignified existence. In fact, the consolidation of social, economic and political democracy has been one of the cardinal concerns of the Founding Fathers of our Constitution, and they wanted that prosperity should reach all sections of our people in all parts of our country.

We should all ponder that UNDP's Development Report has ranked India at the 127th position. We cannot absolve ourselves for our failures in achieving the desired level of empowerment of the socially and economically backward sections. Caste-based social stratification is a reality we have not been able to address in six decades of freedom. Similarly, gender-based discrimination is yet another major crucial

social issue we have failed in addressing. Our women, who constitute almost 50 per cent of our population, should have an effective share in the political decision-making processes, especially in our representative institutions; they should receive the full benefit of education. We cannot wait longer to provide drinking water, good medical care, good road connectivity and other basic infrastructure to all our villages. The information and communications technologies have no relevance to thousands of our villages where there is no electricity and telephones. We are yet to cleanse our system of the cancer of corruption and provide jobs to the millions of unemployed in our country. The question of mass poverty is still staring at the conscience of free India today with over 350 millions of our citizens still living below the poverty line. Freedom has no meaning for all those unfortunate citizens, who still live unsure of their next square meal.

These are the major unfulfilled promises of our freedom for our people today. These are the challenges that our political leadership and the civil society will have to address together. It is imperative that we pool in all our national assets and our collective strength with determination to address the genuine people's problems rather than seeking to play around with emotive issues and distract the people's attention from their genuine problems.

We must recognize that democracy is not all about periodic elections and the political rights alone. It is fundamentally about providing for the basic needs of the people. It is time we began to lay greater attention on the substance of democracy and that is about the positive impact it makes on the lives of the people. 'Health for all, education for all, home for all, jobs for all and security for all' should be the end results of democracy, which can be achieved only when the political and economic power are properly disbursed and the right atmosphere for distributive justice prevails in the country.

Growing instances of social tension across the country and the disturbing indications of frustration and helplessness experienced by our farming and the rural community are issues that should engage the attention of the whole country, particularly of all those associated with the institutions of governance at different levels today. If we do not succeed in addressing the concerns of the people, there is a great risk that they will lose faith in democracy as a viable system capable of meeting their expectations.

Compounding such tension on the socio-economic fronts is not so encouraging political scenario in the country. Today, the sanctity of our democratic processes and institutions are being compromised in different

ways. The visible intrusion of divisive forces into the political arena and the prevailing atmosphere of negative politics are seriously vitiating the democratic culture in our country. Added to this is the attempt by some institutions to malign and marginalize important people's fora with an intent to occupy larger space than what is ideally feasible in a representative democratic system.

All institutions of governance, particularly our people's representative bodies, at different levels, should be concerned about it and endeavour to restore true democratic culture and the spirit of constitutionalism into their functioning. As Gandhiji had cautioned us, democracy can flourish only in an atmosphere of tolerance.

A matter of great concern today, is the issue of social cohesion and the need to bring about what Pandit Nehru called 'the emotional integration' of our people. So much of intolerance, negativism, hatred and violence is generated in the country in the name of narrow, parochial, sectarian, religious and other divisive issues. Communalism is one of the greatest dangers facing us today. This was an issue our Founding Fathers were most worried about in the wake of Freedom. They had, time and again, warned of the dangers of disunity in the country. Stressing the need to have a larger vision for the country, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had exhorted the people thus: '... narrow mindedness means pettiness and density of mind and refusal to accept higher, nobler and purer thoughts... . With such small minds we cannot aspire to be a great nation in the world.' We should not forget that plurality is a basic attribute of the Indian society, which has to be nurtured if India as a nation has to survive. Plurality is best served and sustained only in a parliamentary democratic set up.

Every citizen of our country should be made to feel that he or she is an important part of our democratic functioning and has a role in strengthening the system of parliamentary democracy. Transparency and probity should permeate the functioning of each and every organ and authority in the country. Corruption in all its forms, has to be fought relentlessly and weeded out. Functionaries associated with the institutions at different levels be they part of the Executive or Legislature or the Judiciary have to demonstrate exemplary behaviour.

Acharya Kripalani was one leader who personally launched a crusade against corruption. In fact, he went to the extent of stressing that he was obsessed with corruption because, according to him, 'corruption leads to injustice and inefficiency'. While speaking on corruption, Kripalaniji once observed, and I quote: 'Corruption in administration has its moral impact on the whole community. It has the tendency of

turning the average citizen dishonest. This is dangerous .... (and) greatly impairs administrative efficiency'. (Unquote)

There are many other areas where we still need to devote our attention. We have to ensure at any cost that rule of law prevails and equal justice is meted out to all throughout the country. Gandhiji had said: 'My notion of democracy is that under it the weakest should have the same opportunity as the strongest'. It is of crucial importance for the people to have a speedy and effective justice delivery system. We need to take effective steps to facilitate access to the higher Judiciary for the common people. If due access to the doors of higher judiciary is denied to the poor and the socially disadvantaged, the people's faith in the institutions of our democracy will be undermined. As the eminent jurist, late M.C. Chagla stated: 'If sections of society are deprived of the benefits of law and are treated as second class citizens, or if the law does not protect the liberty of the individual, then it would be meaningless to say that the rule of law prevails.'

Today a major part of our population as also most members of our Parliament belong to the post-independence generation. It is important for them to remember that great sacrifices of generations before them had gone into our struggle for freedom and in laying the institutional foundations of our Republic. We should not undermine their importance by promoting hatred, negativism and divisiveness among our people and by weakening our institutions of governance. Today it is imperative to isolate forces that is working to undermine our freedom and the values that guided the great Freedom Movement. We have to ponder seriously about the dangers of the polity being fractured by issues and objectives other than those based on the principles and inclusiveness.

Dr. Ambedkar's observations towards the end of the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly remain valid today as it was then:

> If we wish to preserve the Constitution in which we have sought to enshrine the principle of government of the people, for the people and by the people, let us resolve not to be tardy in the recognition of the evils that lie across our path... .

Friends, we have a vested interest in making democracy succeed in all its true manifestation so that tyranny does not overtake it. If democracy has to be sustained in the country on a lasting basis, the imperative of strengthening democratic institutions by identifying and curbing all the negative tendencies causing erosion in democratic values have to be recognized by all. Democratic consolidation is not a one-time process—it is a continuous one. That process can be meaningfully

sustained only through the committed endeavours of all sections of our polity. Everyone should seek to strengthen our institutions. Those associated with the institutions at different levels, particularly our people's representatives have a greater responsibility in this. They shall not indulge in anything that could cause to undermine our people's faith in the democratic system.

We all need to bear in mind that eternal vigilance is the price that the citizens have to pay for guarding democracy and freedom. The commitment of the common people is our greatest asset and the continuing guarantee for our democratic functioning. Whatever positions we hold, wherever we are placed, rather than shying away from our responsibilities, we all have to play a key role in the furtherance of our democratic institutions and processes. That will be a befitting tribute to the outstanding leaders like Acharya Kripalani, who untiringly strove throughout their life towards democratic consolidation in the country.

Before I conclude, I would like to once again thank the Acharya Kripalani Memorial Trust for according me this opportunity to share with this august gathering my views on 60 years of Independence and imperatives of democratic consolidation in our country. I wish them all success in all their endeavours towards the furtherance of Acharya Kripalani's philosophy and his lofty ideals.

Thank you.

3

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

CPA U.K. Branch Seminar on Restoring Trust in the Political Process: The United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association hosted a Seminar on "Restoring Trust in the Political Process" in London from 4 to 10 February 2007. Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Shri Lakshman Singh, MP, attended the Seminar from the India Union Branch of the CPA.

The following subjects were discussed in the Seminar:

- Restoring the Crucial Link between Parliament and People
- Integrity in Public Life and Tackling Corruption
- Upholding Human Rights whilst Tackling Security Threats
- The Role of the Media, and
- Youth—Re-engaging the Next Generation

CPA Study Group on Environment in Belize: The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Secretariat, London and the National Assembly of Belize, organized a Study Group on Environment from 26 February to 2 March 2007. Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, MP attended the Study Group from the India Union Branch of the CPA. The Study Group focused on the role of the Parliamentarians in addressing the environmental issues.

The Third India and Asia Regions Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Islamabad: The Third India and Asia Regions Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference on the theme, "Knowledge Sharing and Networking among Regional Parliaments" was held at Islamabad in Pakistan from 26 to 28 March 2007. A five-member Delegation led by Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha participated in the Conference. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Kishan Singh Sangwan, Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, Suresh Bhardwaj, T.K. Hamza, all members of Parliament and Dr. Yogendra Narain, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha. Shri U.S. Saxena,

Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation. During the Conference, two plenary sessions on the following topics were held:

- The Role of Parliaments in Overseeing the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, with particular reference to the Eradication of Poverty; and
- The Contribution of New Information and Communication Technologies to Good Governance and the Improvement of Parliamentary Democracy in particular the Role of Web and Telecasting

Besides, Delegates from the State CPA Branches of the India Region also participated in the Conference.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2007:

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2007. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2007. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of

Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2007. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division), Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 28 February 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division), Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal; the Minister of State in the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Jairam Ramesh; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2007. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Rahguvansh Prasad Singh; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS GOING ABROAD

Saudi Arabia: A 13-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee visited Saudi Arabia from 9 to 13 February 2007. The other members of the Delegation were: Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Sarvashri E. Ponnuswamy, Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, Vanlalzawma, Furkan Ansari, all members of Parliament and Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary General, Lok Sabha. Shri P.K. Grover, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Vietnam: A 13-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee visited Vietnam from 23 to 27 March 2007. The other members of the Delegation were: Shri Rishang Keishing, Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, Dr. H.T. Sangliana, Shri Thupstan Chhewang, Shri Shyam Benegal, all members of Parliament and Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Shri K. Vijayakrishnan, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

Spain: A 12-member Spanish Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Javier Rojo, President of Spanish Senate visited India from 23 February to 4 March 2007.

On 26 February 2007, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted dinner in honour of the Delegation the same evening.

On 27 February 2007, the Delegation called on the then Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The Delegation also called on the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra, Jaipur and Bangalore.

Trinidad and Tobago: A 7-member Parliamentary Delegation from Trinidad and Tobago led by Mr. Barendra Sinanan, Speaker of the House of Representatives visited India from 22 to 27 February 2007.

On 23 February 2007, the Delegation called on the then Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted dinner in honour of the Delegation the same evening. On 27 February 2007, the Delegation called on the then President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Hyderabad and Chennai.

Norway: A 10-member Norwegian Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Thorbjorn Jagland, President of the *Storting* of Kingdom of Norway visited India from 11 to 17 March 2007.

On 12 March 2007, the Delegation called on the then President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted banquet in honour of the Delegation the same evening.

On 13 March 2007, the Delegation called on the then Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Jaipur and Kolkata.

MEETINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

India-Hungary: A meeting of the India-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, MP and President of the Group with the visiting Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Hungary led by Dr. Janos Veres, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Hungary was held on 16 January 2007. The Delegation also called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee in the Parliament House. The members also visited the Parliament House and Parliament Museum.

India-Mexico: A meeting of the India-Mexico Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Dr. Rajesh Mishra, MP and President of the Group with Mr. Rogelio Granguillhome Morfin, Ambassador of Mexico in India was held on 18 January 2007.

India-France: A meeting of the India-France Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri Mohammad Salim, MP and President of the Group with the visiting Delegation from the Social Affairs Commission of the French Senate headed by Mr. Nicolas About, President of the Social Affairs Commission was held on 19 March 2007.

India-Israel: A meeting of the India-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, MP and President of the Group with Mr. Michael Eitan, Member of the *Knesset*, Israel was held on 29 March 2007.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period from 1 January to 31 March 2007, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organized the following courses/programmes:

Lecture Series for Members of Parliament: As part of the Lecture

Series for members of Parliament, which was started during the Fifth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, the Bureau organized a Lecture on "National Knowledge Commission" which was delivered by Shri Sam Pitroda, Chairman, National Knowledge Commission on 14 March 2007.

Study Visits: During the period, the following Study Visits were conducted by the Bureau: (i) Visit by a 21-member American Delegation from the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee on 19 January 2007; (ii) Visit by a 13-member Delegation from Afghanistan headed by Mr. Ghulam Farook Wardek, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Afghanistan from 23 to 27 February 2007; (iii) Study Visit by Parliamentary officials from Cambodia from 26 to 27 February 2007; and (iv) Visit by 5 interns from the National Assembly of Quebec, Canada from 1 to 2 March 2007.

In addition, 22 other Study Visits for the benefit of the students/ officials of various schools/colleges/institutes/organisations were organized. A total of 425 participants attended these visits.

International Training Programmes: The Twenty-second International Programme in Legislative Drafting for officials from foreign countries and officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the State Legislature Secretariats was organised from 12 January to 23 February 2007. The programme was attended by 33 participants from 22 countries and 10 participants from Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats.

Appreciation Courses: During the period, Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Practices and Procedures were organized for: (i) Probationers of Indian Audit and Accounts Service from 5 to 9 February 2007, attended by 10 participants; (ii) Probationers of Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) and Indian Postal Service from 12 to 16 February 2007, attended by 18 participants; and (iii) Probationers of Indian Revenue Service (IRS) and Indian Ordnance Factory Services (IOFS) from 5 to 9 March 2007, attended by 70 participants.

Workshop: A Workshop on "Scrutinizing Demands for Grants by the Departmentally Related Standing Committees" was organised on 10 February 2007, which was attended by 23 officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Instances when the Chair allowed members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 8 and 9 March 2007, during combined discussion on the Budget (Railways)–2007-2008, the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways)–2007-2008, the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways)–2006-2007 and Resolution regarding approval of recommendations in the Fifth Report of Railway Convention Committee (2004), the Chair permitted sixty six members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

During combined discussion on Budget (General)–2007-2008, Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for the year 2007-08, the Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2006-2007, held on 12, 13 and 14 March 2007, the Chair permitted thirty members to lay their written speeches and sixteen members to lay a portion of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

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PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2007)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Budget Session of Parliament: The First Part of the Tenth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Tenth Session of the Rajya Sabha (the Budget Session of Parliament) commenced on 23 February 2007 with the Address by the President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned on 20 and 21 March 2007, respectively to enable the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House.

Lok Sabha By-elections Results: The by-elections to six Lok Sabha constituencies were held during the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007.

On 27 February 2007, Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shri Vijay Bahuguna of the Indian National Congress (INC) were declared elected from Amritsar (Punjab) and Tehri Gharwal (Uttarakhand) Lok Sabha constituencies, by-elections for which were held on 13 February 2007 and 21 February 2007, respectively.

While Shri Vijay Bahuguna took oath/affirmation on 2 March 2007, Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu took oath/affirmation on 7 March 2007.

On 11 March 2007, Shri Manik Singh of the INC and

Smt. Yashodhara Raje Scindia of the BJP were declared elected from Siddhi and Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh) Lok Sabha constituencies respectively, by-elections for which were held on 8 March 2007.

Shri Manik Singh took oath/affirmation on 20 March 2007, whereas Smt. Yashodhara Raje Scindia took oath/affirmation on 26 April 2007.

The by-elections to the Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh) and Palamau (Jharkhand) Lok Sabha constituencies were held on 29 March 2007.

Shri Dev Wrat Singh of the INC, who was declared elected from Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh) Constituency on 1 April 2007, took oath/ affirmation on 26 April 2007.

Shri Ghuran Ram of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, who was declared elected from Palamau (Jharkhand) on 2 April 2007, took oath/affirmation on 26 April 2007.

Elections to Rajya Sabha: On 22 March 2007, Shri Naresh Gujral of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Dr. Ram Prakash of the Indian National Congress (INC) were elected to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab and Haryana, respectively. Shri Gujral's term commenced the same day and he took oath/affirmation on 23 March 2007. Shri Ram Prakash's term commenced on 23 March 2007 and he took oath/affirmation on 3 April 2007.

Death of Rajya Sabha Members: On 19 January 2007, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, an Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) member of the Rajya Sabha from Haryana passed away.

On 20 February 2007, Shri Chittabrata Majumdar, a Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI (M)) member of the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal passed away.

Death of Lok Sabha Members: On 5 January 2007, Lt. Col. (Retd) Maharaja Manabendra Shah, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of the Lok Sabha from Tehri Garhwal (Uttarakhand) passed away.

On 4 March 2007, Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato, a Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) member of the Lok Sabha from Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) passed away.

Resignation of Lok Sabha Member: On 14 February 2007, Shri Subodh Mohite, Shiv Sena (SS) member of the Lok Sabha resigned from Ramtek (Maharashtra) Lok Sabha Constituency.

Withdrawal of Support to UPA Government: On 21 February 2007, the Samajwadi Party withdrew its support to the United Progressive

Alliance (UPA) Government. The party has 42 members in the Lok Sabha and 16 in the Rajya Sabha.

Suspension of Party MP: On 7 March 2007, the Indian National Congress suspended Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi, member from Bhiwani (Haryana) Lok Sabha Constituency from the primary membership of the party for indulging in "anti-party activities".

AROUND THE STATES

JHARKHAND

Resignation of MLA: On 11 March 2007, Janata Dal (United) MLA Shri Inder Singh Namdhari resigned from the State Legislative Assembly.

KARNATAKA

Resignation of Minister: On 2 January 2007, the Minister for Wakf and Haj Committee, Zameer Ahmed Khan resigned from the H.D. Kumaraswamy Ministry expressing dissatisfaction over the Chief Minister staying away from the Id (Bakrid) prayer meeting on 1 January 2007. His resignation has been accepted.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 25 January 2007, Chief Minister Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy inducted five new Ministers into his Cabinet. The names of the Ministers along with their portfolios is as follows: Sarvashri G.T. Deve Gowda (Co-operation); H.S. Mahadeva Prasad (Kannada and Culture); R. Srinivas (Municipal Administration); S. Shivanna (Sericulture); and Appu Pattanashetty (Textiles).

MADHYA PRADESH

Death of Former Chief Minister: On 14 February 2007, former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri S.C. Shukla passed away in Raipur (Chhattisgarh). He was 82

By-Election Result: On 11 March 2007, Smt. Shashi Prabha Rampal Singh of the BJP was declared elected from Udaipura Assembly constituency, by-election for which was held on 8 March 2007.

MANIPUR

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held in three phases on 8, 14 and 23 February 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 60; Indian National Congress (INC): 30; Manipur Peoples' Party (MPP): 5;

Communist Party of India (CPI): 4; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP): 5; Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD): 3; National People's Party (NPP): 3; and Independents: 10.

Ibobi Stakes Claim to Form Government: On 1 March 2007, Shri Okram Ibobi Singh, leader of the Congress Legislature Party staked claim to form the Government with the support of the CPI and the RJD. The three parties formed Secular Progressive Front (SPF) with the combined strength of 37 MLAs in the State Legislative Assembly.

New Chief Minister: On 2 March 2007, Shri Okram Ibobi Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 13 March 2007, Chief Minister Shri Okram Ibobi Singh expanded his Council of Ministers.

The names of Ministers with their portfolios* is as follows: Shri O. Ibobi Singh, Chief Minister; Sarvashri K. Govindas Singh, *Public Health Engineering Department;* Ph. Parijat Singh, *Food and Civil Supply;* C. Doungel, *Forest & Environment* and *Tourism;* Th. Devendra Singh, *Commerce & Industries* and *Weights & Measures*; Phungzathang Tonsing, *Power;* Y. Erabot Singh, *Education (University);* Gaikhangam, *Works*; E. Biramani Singh, *Revenue;* N. Mangi Singh, *Irrigation and Flood Control;* Ngamthang Haokip, *Tribal Development*; R.K. Theko, *Horticulture & Soil Conservation*; Md. Abdul Salam, *Co-operation* and *Minorities & Other Backward Classes;* Vivek Raj Wangkhem, *Social Welfare;* L. Nandakumar Singh, *Law & Legislative Affairs;* Y. Mani Singh, *Veterinary & Animal Husbandry;* and Dr. M. Nara Singh, *Sericulture* and *Arts & Culture.*

The names of the Ministers of State with their portfolios is as follows: Sarvashri A. Aza, *Youth Affairs & Sports;* W. Brajabidhu, *Minor Irrigation;* W. Keishing, *Fisheries* and *Government Press;* and S. Natum Singh, *Transport* and *Science & Technology.*

MEGHALAYA

New Chief Minister: On 10 March 2007, Shri D.D. Lapang was sworn in as the Chief Minister, replacing Shri J.D. Rymbai who resigned earlier in the day.

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* As on 20 July 2007

NAGALAND

By-Election Results: On 12 March 2007, Sarvashri Kejong and Aheto V. Yeptho, both of the Indian National Congress were declared elected from Tuengsang Sadar-II and Dimapur–I Assembly constituencies, respectively, by-elections for which were held on 8 March 2007.

PUNJAB

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 13 February 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 116; Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD): 48; Indian National Congress (INC): 44; Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 19; and Independents: 5.

New Government Sworn in: On 2 March 2007, Shri Parkash Singh Badal of the Shiromani Akali Dal was sworn in as the Chief Minister. With him, 17 other Ministers also took oath of office.

The names of Ministers with their portfolios* is as follows: Shri Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister, *Excise* and *Taxation, General Administration, Home Affairs* and *Justice, Housing* and *Urban Development, Legal* and *Legislative Affairs, NRIs Affairs, Personnel, Power* and *Vigilance; Sarvashri* Sucha Singh Langah, *Agriculture;* Gulzar Singh Ranike, *Animal Husbandry, Fisheries* and *Dairy Development, Sports, Welfare of SCs* and *BCs, Youth Welfare;* Hira Singh Gabria, *Cultural Affairs, Archives, Museum* and *Archaeology, Home Affairs* and *Justice (Jails* and *Judicial), Printing* and *Stationery, Tourism;* Ranjit Singh Brahampura, *Election Commission, Rural Development* and *Panchayats;* Manpreet Singh Badal, *Finance, Planning, Programme Implementation;* Adesh Partap Singh Kairon, *Food* and *Supplies, Information Technology;* Tikshan Sud, *Forest* and *Wild Life, Medical Education* and *Research, Parliamentary Affairs;* Manoranjan Kalia, *Industries* and *Commerce, Local Government;* Bikram Singh Majithia, *Information* and *Public Relations, Water Supply* and *Sanitation;* Janmeja Singh, *Irrigation;* Parminder Singh Dhindsa, *Public Works (Buildings* and *Roads);* Ajit Singh Kohar, *Revenue* and *Rehabilitation;* Swarna Ram, *Social Security, Women* and *Child Development, Technical Education* and *Industrial Training;* Master Mohan Lal, *Transport;* Capt. Kanwaljit Singh, *Co-operation, Defence Services Welfare;* Dr. Upinderjit Kaur, *Civil Aviation, School Education;* and Smt. Lakshmi Kanta Chawla, *Health* and *Family Welfare.*

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* As on 20 July 2007

RAJASTHAN

Minister Divested of Portfolio: On 2 February 2007, Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje divested Shri Madan Dilawar of his Cooperatives portfolio. Shri Dilawar retains Social Justice and Empowerment Department.

UTTARAKHAND

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 21 February 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 70; Results declared: 69; Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP):34; Indian National Congress (INC): 21; Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP): 8; Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (UKKD): 3; and Independents: 3.

Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri Invited to Form Government: On 2 March 2007, Governor Shri Sudarshan Agarwal invited Bharatiya Janata Party Legislature Party leader, Major General (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri to form the Government.

New Chief Minister. On 8 March 2007, Major General (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Along with him, Shri Prakash Pant also took oath of office as a Cabinet Minister.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 27 March 2007, Chief Minister Shri B.C. Khanduri inducted 10 more Ministers—eight Cabinet Ministers and two Ministers of State—into his Council of Ministers.

The names of the Cabinet Ministers with their portfolios* are as follows: Shri B.C. Khanduri, Chief Minister; Sarvashri Prakash Pant, *Tourism, Religious Work, Cultural, Parliamentary Affairs*; Trivendra Singh Rawat, *Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Agriculture Research & Education, Fisheries, Language*; Matbar Singh Kandari, *Irrigation & Flood Control*; Madan Kaushik, *Education, Primary & Secondary Education, Sugar Industry, Excise*; Vansidhar Bhagat, *Environment & Forest, Watershed Management, Transport*; Divakar Bhatt, *Revenue, Food & Public Distribution*; Rajendra Singh Bhandari, *Youth Affairs, Khadi & Village Industries, Sports*; Vishan Singh Chuphal, *Rural Development & Land Resources, Panchayati Raj;* and Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal, *Health & Family Welfare, Information* and *Science* and *Technology, AYUSH.*

The Ministers of State are: Shri Ajay Tamta, *Social Welfare, Youth*

* As on 20 July 2007

and *Freedom Fighters, Minority;* and Smt. Veena Marana, *Women & Child Development.*

UTTAR PRADESH

Political Developments: On 9 January 2007, three Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) Ministers in the Mulayam Singh Yadav Government resigned from the Council of Ministers. The Ministers are: Sarvashri K. Hamid (Tourism); Virendra Singh (Animal Husbandry); and Swami Omvesh (Minister of State for Sugarcane Development).

Withdrawal of Support to Government: On 17 January 2007, 15-member INC in the State Legislative Assembly withdrew support to the Mulayam Singh Yadav Government.

On 18 January 2007, 15-member RLD in the State Legislative Assembly also withdrew support to the Mulayam Singh Yadav Government.

Vote of Confidence: On 25 January 2007, with the entire Opposition boycotting the proceedings, Chief Minister Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav won a Vote of Confidence in the State Legislative Assembly.

Disqualification of 13 MLAs: On 14 February 2007, the Supreme Court disqualified 13 MLAs, who originally belonged to the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) but crossed the floor and later formed the Loktantrik Bahujan Dal with 24 other BSP MLAs, who defected the party and joined them on 6 September 2003.

For deciding the complex issue of defection in the BSP, triggered by 13 of its MLAs leaving the party on 26 August 2003, a five-judge Constitution Bench said that the BSP having a strength of 109 members in the then House, and only 13 legislators defecting from the party was not a split and therefore they were liable to be disqualified under the provision of Paragraph 3 of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

Since 24 BSP MLAs had joined the 13 MLAs on 6 September 2003, adding the number to 37 required to constitute one-third under the then prevalent anti-defection law, the Court said the necessary consequence of this would be that their joining the earlier group of 13 MLAs "could not establish a split in the original (BSP) political party as having taken place on August 26".

The 13 MLAs who have been disqualified are: Sarvashri Rajendra Singh Rana, Virendra Singh Bundela, Jaiveer Singh, Yogesh Pratap Singh, Shailendra Yadav, Jai Prakash Yadav, Brijendra Pratap Singh,

Rajendra Singh Chauhan, Rajpal Tyagi, Surendra Vikram Singh, Kazim Ali Khan, Dinesh Singh and Qutub-ud-din Ansari.

Resignation of Six Ministers: On 15 February 2007, six Ministers resigned from the Cabinet after being disqualified as MLAs by the Supreme Court on 14 February 2007. Those who resigned were the Minister of Rural Development, Shri Rajpal Tyagi; Minister of State for Culture and Women's Welfare, Shri Rajendra Singh Rana; Minister of State for Agriculture Education, Shri Yogesh Pratap Singh; Minister of State for Programme Implementation, Shri Virendra Singh Bundela; Minister of State for Administrative Reforms and Entertainment Tax, Shri Dinesh Singh; and Minister for State for Housing, Shri Shailendra Yadav.

Resignation of BSP MLAs: On 24 February 2007, all the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLAs resigned from the State Legislative Assembly.

EVENTS ABROAD

ARMENIA

Death of Prime Minister: On 25 March 2007, Prime Minister Mr. Andranik Markarian died following a heart attack. Mr. Serzh Sarkisian was appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister.

BENIN

Election Results: The elections to the 83-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 31 March 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin: 35; Alliance for a Dynamic Democracy: 20; Democratic Renewal Party: 10; Key Force: 4; Union for Relief: 3; National Union for Democracy and Progress: 2; Hope Force: 2; Coalition for an Emerging Benin:2; Renewal Alliance:2; Alliance of Progress Forces: 1; Party for Democracy and Social Progress:1; and Restore Hope:1.

BRAZIL

President Sworn in: On 1 January 2007, Mr. Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva was sworn in as the President of Brazil.

Congressional Presidents Re-elected: On 1 February 2007, Mr. Renan Calheiros was re-elected as the President of 81—member Senate and Mr. Arlindo Chinaglia was elected as the President of the 513-member Chamber of Deputies (the Lower House).

CHAD

Death of Prime Minister: On 22 February 2007, Prime Minister Mr. Pascal Yoadimnadji died following a cardiac arrest. Mr. Nouradine Delwa Kassire Koumakoye was appointed as the new Prime Minister on 27 February 2007.

ECUADOR

New President Sworn in: On 15 January 2007, Mr. Rafael Correa was sworn in as the President of Ecuador.

ESTONIA

Election Results: The elections to the 101-seat *Riigikogu* (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 4 March 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Estonian Reform Party: 31; Estonian Centre Party: 29; Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica: 19; Estonian Social Democratic Party: 10; Estonian Green Party: 6; and Estonian People's Union:6.

FIJI

Reinstatement of President and Formation of New Government: Commodore Frank (J.V.) Bainimarama, Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), who overthrew the Government led by Prime Minister Mr. Laisenia Qarase in a bloodless *coup* on 5 December 2006 and assumed the acting Presidency, on 4 January 2007 handed back executive authority to the elderly President Mr. Ratu Josefa Iloilo.

New Prime Minister: On 5 January 2007, Mr. Iloilo appointed Mr. Bainimarama as interim Prime Minister, following the resignation the previous day of caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Jona Baravilalala Senilagakali, appointed by Mr. Bainimarama on 5 December 2006.

FINLAND

Election Results: The elections to the 200-seat Eduskunta (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 18 March 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Centre Party: 51; National Coalition Party: 50; Finnish Social Democratic Party: 45; Left-Wing Alliance: 17; Greens: 15; Swedish People's Party: 9; Christian Democratic Party: 7; True Finns: 5; and Others: 1.

GAMBIA

Election Results: The elections to the 53-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 25 January 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction: 42; United Democratic Party: 4; National Alliance for Democracy and Development: 1; Independents: 1; and Presidential appointees: 5.

GUINEA

New Prime Minister: On 1 March 2007, Mr. Lansana Kouyate was appointed as the Prime Minister by the President, Mr. Lansana Conte.

KAZAKHSTAN

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 8 January 2007, Prime Minister Mr. Daniyal Akhmetov submitted his resignation to the President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev.

New Prime Minister: On 10 January 2007, Mr. Karim Masimov was appointed as the Prime Minister by President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev.

KYRGYZSTAN

Appointment of New Prime Minister: On 29 January 2007, President Mr. Kurmanbek Bakiev dismissed acting Prime Minister Mr. Feliks Kulov and appointed Mr. Azimbek Isabekov as the new Prime Minister.

New Prime Minister: On 29 March 2007, Prime Minister Mr. Azimbek Isabekov resigned from his post.

Mr. Almazbek Atambayev was appointed as the Prime Minister by the President Mr. Kurmanbek Bakiev.

LESOTHO

Election Results: The elections to the 120-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 17 February 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Lesotho Congress for Democracy: 61; National Independent Party: 21; All Basotho Convention: 17; Lesotho Workers Party: 10; Alliance of Congress Parties: 4; Basotho National Party: 3; Basotho Batho Democratic Party: 1; Basotho Democratic National Party: 1; Popular Front for Democracy: 1; and Vacant: 1.

LIBERIA

Resignation of Speaker: On 15 February 2007, Speaker of the House of Representatives (the lower chamber of the Bicameral Legislature), Mr. Edwin Snowe, resigned from his post.

MADAGASCAR

President Sworn in: On 19 January 2007, Mr. Marc Ravalomanana was sworn in as President of Madagascar.

New Prime Minister: On 20 January 2007, General Charles Rabemananjara was appointed as the Prime Minister, replacing Mr. Jacques Sylla.

MAURITANIA

New President: Mr. Sidi Mohammed Ould Cheikh Abjallahi was elected for the post of President in the elections held on 11 March 2007.

NICARAGUA

New President Sworn in: On 10 January 2007, Mr. Daniel Ortega Saavedra was sworn in as the President of Nicaragua.

SENEGAL

President Re-elected: Mr. Abdoulaye Wade was re-elected for the post of President in the elections held on 25 February 2007.

SERBIA

Election Results: The elections to the 250-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 21 January 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Serbian Radical Party: 81; Democratic Party:64; Democratic Party of Serbia-New Serbia: 47; G-17 Plus: 19; Socialist Party of Serbia: 16; Liberal Democratic Party: 15; Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians: 3; List for Sandzak: 2; Union of Roma of Serbia: 1; Albanian Coalition of Presevo Valley: 1; and Roma Party: 1.

SOUTH KOREA

New Prime Minister: On 9 March 2007, Mr. Han Duck Soo was appointed as the Prime Minister, replacing Mr. Han Myung Sook, by President Mr. Roh Moo Hyun.

TURKMENISTAN

New President: Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedov was elected for the post of President in the elections held on 11 February 2007.

VENEZUELA

President Sworn in: On 10 January 2007, Mr. Hugo Chavez Frias was sworn in as the President of Venezuela.

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DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

Part IV of the Constitution containing the Directive Principles of State Policy, in article 46, has laid down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Scheduled Tribes (STs), and shall protect them from social injustice. Access to education is of paramount importance in ensuring advancement of persons belonging to the SCs, the STs, and the socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, who are also referred to as the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005, had inserted clause (5) in article 15 of the Constitution, with a view to promote the educational advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, the SCs and the STs through special provisions relating to admission of students belonging to these categories in all educational institutions, including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State. In terms of this provision, the Parliament as well as the State Legislatures have been empowered to make appropriate laws for the educational advancement of the weaker sections of the people.

With a view to give effect to the Constitutional provisions, the Government felt it expedient and necessary to make statutory provisions in the proposed Bill for reservation in matters of admissions for the students belonging to the SCs, the STs and the OBCs in the Central Educational Institutions, including Institutions deemed to be Universities established, maintained or aided by the Central Government. However, the provisions of the proposed Bill, *inter alia,* would not be applicable to the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (*1*) of article 30.

The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 14 and 18 December 2006, respectively. It was assented to by the President on 3 January 2007.

We reproduce here the text of the above Act.

— Editor

THE CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (RESERVATION IN ADMISSION) ACT, 2006

An Act to provide for the reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of citizens, to certain Central Educational Institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title:* This Act may be called the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

2. *Definitions:* In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(*a*) "academic session" means the period in a calendar year, or a part thereof, during which a Central Educational Institution is open for teaching or instruction in any branch of study or faculty;

(*b*) "annual permitted strength" means the number of seats, in a course or programme for teaching or instruction in each branch of study or faculty authorised by an appropriate authority for admission of students to a Central Educational Institution;

(*c*) "appropriate authority" means the University Grants Commission, the Bar Council of India, the Medical Council of India, the All India Council for Technical Education or any other authority or body established by or under a Central Act for the determination, coordination or maintenance of the standards of higher education in any Central Educational Institution;

(*d*) "Central Educational Institution" means—

(*i*) a university established or incorporated by or under a Central Act;

(*ii*) an institution of national importance set up by an Act of Parliament;

(*iii*) an institution, declared as a deemed University under section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, and maintained by or receiving aid from the Central Government;

(*iv*) an institution maintained by or receiving aid from the Central Government, whether directly or indirectly, and affiliated to an institution referred to in clause (*i*) or clause (*ii*), or a constituent unit of an institution referred to in clause (*iii*);

(*v*) an educational institution set up by the Central Government under the Societies Registration Act, 1860;

(*e*) "faculty" means the faculty of a Central Educational Institution;

(*f*) "Minority Educational Institution" means an institution established and administered by the minorities under clause (*1*) of article 30 of the Constitution and so declared by an Act of Parliament or by the Central Government or declared as a Minority Educational Institution under the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004;

(*g*) "Other Backward Classes" means the class or classes of citizens who are socially and educationally backward, and are so determined by the Central Government;

(*h*) "Scheduled Castes" means the Scheduled Castes notified under article 341 of the Constitution;

(*i*) "Scheduled Tribes" means the Scheduled Tribes notified under article 342 of the Constitution;

(*j*) "teaching or instruction in any branch of study" means teaching or instruction in a branch of study leading to three principal levels of qualifications at bachelor (undergraduate) masters (postgraduate) and doctoral levels.

3. *Reservation of seats in Central Educational Institutions:* The reservation of seats in admission and its extent in a Central Educational Institution shall be provided in the following manner, namely:—

(*i*) out of the annual permitted strength in each branch of study or faculty, fifteen per cent. seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes;

(*ii*) out of the annual permitted strength in each branch of study or faculty, seven and one-half per cent. seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes;

(*iii*) out of the annual permitted strength in each branch of study or faculty, twenty-seven per cent. seats shall be reserved for the Other Backward Classes.

4. *Act not to apply in certain cases:* The provisions of section 3 of this Act shall not apply to—

(*a*) a Central Educational Institution established in the tribal areas referred to in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution;

(*b*) the institutions of excellence, research institutions, institutions of national and strategic importance specified in the Schedule to this Act:

Provided that the Central Government may, as and when

considered necessary, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Schedule;

(*c*) a Minority Educational Institution as defined in this Act;

(*d*) a course or programme at high levels of specialisation, including at the post-doctoral level, within any branch of study or faculty, which the Central Government may, in consultation with the appropriate authority, specify.

5. *Mandatory increase of seats:* (*1*) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (*iii*) of section 3 and in any other law for the time being in force, every Central Educational Institution shall, with the prior approval of the appropriate authority, increase the number of seats in a branch of study or faculty over and above its annual permitted strength so that the number of seats, excluding those reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, is not less than the number of such seats available for the academic session immediately preceding the date of the coming into force of this Act.

(*2*) Where, on a representation by any Central Educational institution, the Central Government, in consultation with the appropriate authority, is satisfied that for reasons of financial, physical or academic limitations or in order to maintain the standards of education, the annual permitted strength in any branch of study or faculty of such institution cannot be increased for the academic session following the commencement of this Act, it may permit by notification in the Official Gazette, such institution to increase the annual permitted strength over a maximum period of three years beginning with the academic session following the commencement of this Act; and then, the extent of reservation for the Other Backward Classes as provided in clause (*iii*) of section 3 shall be limited for that academic session in such manner that the number of seats available to the Other Backward Classes for each academic session are commensurate with the increase in the permitted strength for each year.

6. *Reservation of seats in admissions to begin in calender year, 2007:* The Central Educational Institutions shall take all necessary steps, which are required in giving effect to the provisions of sections 3, 4 and 5 of this Act, for the purposes of reservation of seats in admissions to its academic sessions commencing on and from the calendar year, 2007.

7. *Laying of notifications before Parliament:* Every notification made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session, for a total periord of

thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the notification or both Houses agree that the notification should not be made, the notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that notification.

THE SCHEDULE

[*See* section 4(*b*)]

S.No.	Names of the Institutions of Excellence, etc.
1.	Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai and its constituent units, namely:–
	(i) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay;
	(ii) Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam;
	(iii) Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore;
	(iv) Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar;
	(v) Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata;
	(vi) Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata;
	(vii) Institute of Physics, Bhubaneshwar;
	(viii) Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai;
	(ix) Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad;
	(x) Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai.
2.	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.
3.	North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Science, Shillong.
4.	National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, Gurgaon.
5.	Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore.
6.	Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.
7.	Space Physics Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram.
8.	Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun.

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SESSIONAL REVIEW

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

TENTH SESSION

The Tenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 23 February 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2007. (The House was adjourned from 20 March to 26 April 2007 to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House.) The House was prorogued on 21 May 2007.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period from 23 February to 20 March 2007 is given below:*

A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

The Budget (Railways), 2007-2008: Presenting the Railway Budget, 2007-2008 on 26 February 2007, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad said that the Railways had turned in a record breaking performance during the first nine months of the current year, 2006-2007. Passenger Earnings had increased by 14 per cent and other Coaching Earnings by 48 per cent during this period. A historic increase of 17 per cent was registered in both Freight Earnings and Gross Traffic Earnings up to December. Based on the growth registered so far, the Revised Estimates for Passenger, Other Coaching, Freight and Gross Traffic Earnings had been kept at Rs.17,400 crore; Rs.1,726 crore; Rs.42,299 crore and Rs.63,120 crore respectively. The Gross Traffic Earnings were likely to go up by 16 per cent as against last year and exceed the Budget Estimates by 5.5 per cent. The Cash Surplus before payment of dividend was expected to be Rs.20,063 crore. The Net Revenue was expected at Rs.14,870 crore and the Net Surplus after payment of dividend was expected at Rs.10,627 crore. In 2006-2007, the Railways

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* Sessional Review covering the rest of the period will be carried in the September 2007 issue of the *JPI* (Vol. LIII, No.3); complete details regarding Question Hour and Obituary References will also be carried in the said issue

were poised to achieve an operating ratio of 78.7 per cent. The Minister said that it was perhaps the first occasion in the glorious history of 150 years of Indian Railways when its fund balances could reach Rs.16,000 crore and the Net Revenue to Capital ratio an historic level of 20 per cent. Indian Railways' name would thus be included in the select club of Railways in the world, having an operating ratio of less than 80 per cent.

Regarding the initiatives taken for improvement in Freight Business, the Minister announced that the target for freight loading was kept at 785 Million Tonne (MT) in 2007-2008. He was hopeful that by the year 2011-2012, the Railways' traffic from cement and steel industry would increase to 200 MT each. All out efforts would be made to increase the container traffic to 100 MT by 2011-2012 from the present 20 MT. Wagon manufacturers would be encouraged to design wagons with higher payload and new technology.

The Minister also announced several initiatives in passenger business. He informed that inducting 700 additional coaches in popular trains in the current year had facilitated travel of more people and increased the earnings of the Railways. In 2007-2008, the Railways would add another 800 coaches in popular trains. Production of wooden seats would be stopped from 2007-2008, and cushioned seats would be manufactured for unreserved second class coaches as was the case for sleeper coaches. There would be expansion of reserved ticketing facilities by opening Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters at the premises of Post-offices and Defence organisations and e-ticketing services through State Government's e-services, petrol pumps, etc. There would be expansion of unreserved ticketing facilities by increasing Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters to 8,000 in the next two years and by installing 6,000 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines, linked to UTS in metropolitan cities in the next two years. To improve passenger amenities at stations, 300 more stations would be developed as modern stations. The Minister announced that the year 2007-2008 would be observed as 'Cleanliness Year' during which a special campaign would be launched to ensure cleanliness and hygiene at station complexes, passenger trains, railway lines, waiting rooms, etc.

Coming to the Railways' new profile in the Eleventh Five-year Plan, the Minister stated that the Railways were targeting a freight loading of 1,100 MT and passenger traffic of 840 crore by the terminal end of the Plan. In order to make this unprecedented growth a reality, he said that it was absolutely essential to expand and double the Railway's transport capacity in the next few years and to bring down the unit cost by

playing the volume game and to provide customers the world-class services. Other important steps proposed to be taken during the Eleventh Plan include, among others: construction of Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors at a cost of Rs.30,000 crore commencing from 2007-2008; conversion of most of the metre-gauge lines into broad-gauge by the end of the five-year plan; construction of high speed passenger corridors to run trains at a speed of more than 300 km per hour; manifold increase in investment in IT to increase earnings, ensure effective utilization of human and physical resources and facilitate long term policy decisions, etc.

Coming to Railway safety and security, the Minister said that most of the works of renewal of over-aged tracks, bridges, track circuiting and rolling stock would be completed by March 2007 and all the remaining works would be completed by March 2008. To ensure safety of passengers, the production of better crash worthy coaches had commenced and the number of such coaches would be further increased in future. The Railways had taken several steps to strengthen and modernize the security arrangements. In many sensitive divisions of the country, explosive detection devices, door frames and hand held metal detectors were being installed to provide better security for trains and passengers. Besides, 8,000 vacant posts in Railway Protection Special Force would be filled up shortly on an all India basis.

In view of the increasing demand for passenger trains, the Minister also announced the introduction of 32 pairs of New trains; 8 New Garib Raths; extension of run of 23 pairs of Train; and increase in the frequency of 14 pairs of Trains.

Coming to the Annual Plan for 2007-2008, the Minister said that an outlay of Rs.31,000 crore was being proposed. This was the largest ever Annual Plan so far and included: support of Rs.7,611 crore from the General Exchequer; Internal Generation of Rs.17,323 crore and an Extra Budgetary Resource of Rs.5,740 crore. The thrust of the Annual Plan was towards maintaining the high growth rate through early completion of throughput enhancement works, traffic facilities and works related to network expansion and development of high traffic density routes.

Coming to the Budget Estimates for the year 2007-2008, the Minister said that the target for freight loading for the year 2007-2008 had been kept at 785 MT and for freight output at 516 billion tonne kms. To maintain the double digit growth rate, the Budget Estimates for Freight, Passenger and other Coaching Earnings had been kept at Rs.46,943 crore; Rs.20,075 crore and Rs.2,200 crore respectively.

Gross Traffic Earnings had been projected at Rs.71,218 crore, reflecting an increase of Rs.7,248 crore on the Revised Estimates for the current year.

The provision for Ordinary Working Expenses for 2007-2008 had been kept at Rs.42,687 crore, which was 12 per cent more than the Revised Estimates for 2006-2007. Provision for Depreciation Reserve Fund had been pegged at Rs.5,496 crore and Pension Fund at Rs.8,683 crore. Thus, the total Working Expenses would be Rs.56,687 crore and the Net Traffic Receipts, Rs.14,631 crore. While Railways' Cash Surplus before dividend was projected at Rs.21,578 crore, the targeted Operating Ratio was 79.6 per cent. Fund balances at the end of the next financial year were estimated at Rs.16,170 crore. The memorandum on rate of dividend payable to General Revenues for 2007-2008 had been submitted for the consideration of the Railway Convention Committee. The Dividend payable for 2007-2008, assessed on the basis of the rate of dividend for 2006-2007, was estimated at Rs.3,909 crore. In 2007-2008, the Railways would not only meet this liability but would also discharge the entire remaining deferred dividend liability of Rs.664 crore. In the Plan outlay for the next year, Rs.17,323 crore would be provided from internal resources.

Concluding his speech, the Minister said that the Indian Railways was fast emerging as a dynamic and vibrant entity. The guidance, encouragement and support of the Prime Minister had helped the Railways grow from strength to strength. The unstinted support given by the members of the House to the policies and the faith they had expressed in the railway family had boosted the morale and self confidence of the Railways. He commended the Railway Budget, 2007-2008.

The combined discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2007-2008; Demands for Grants on Account (Railways), 2007-2008; Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2006-2007 and Resolution regarding approval of Recommendations in the Fifth Report of Railway Convention Committee (2004) took place on 8 and 9 March 2007.

Initiating the discussion on 8 March 2005, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that the Railway Budget was quite disappointing. He said that the Railways were charging more from the passengers in the name of superfast trains. This had been done without increasing the speed, facilities or stoppages of the trains. He said that since the Eleventh Five Year Plan was about to start, there was a need to modernize Indian Railways but there was shortage of resources. Enough resources had not been mobilized for the development

of Indian Railways. This indicated that Indian Railways was not treading on the path of progress and *status quo* would continue, he added.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy of the Biju Janata Dal requested the Minister for allotment of additional funds in the budget for expediting the ongoing Railway development projects and also for inclusion of new projects in the Budget. He requested the Minister for setting up coaching terminals at Puri, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Koraput.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) suggested that a conference of Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu may be called immediately for finalization of the Salem Division. He also requested that more amount be allotted for doubling the Railway lines in Kerala and that more trains be sanctioned from Kerala to Bangalore.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that the people of Andhra Pradesh were not happy with the Budget for not getting adequate share in it.

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri L. Rajagopal, Anil Basu, Rewati Raman Singh, Ram Kripal Yadav, N.S.V. Chitthan, Avinash Rai Khanna, Raghunath Jha, S.K. Kharventhan, Alakesh Das, Vijaykumar Khandelwal, K.C. Pallani Shamy, Brahmananda Panda, Bhanwar Singh Dangawas, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Francis Fanthome, Prakash Paranjpe, Munshi Ram, Ram Singh Kaswan, Bhubneshwar Prasad Mehta, Sita Ram Singh, Kashiram Rana, Sanat Kumar Mandal, Vinod Khanna, Virendra Kumar, N.N. Krishnadas, Chandramani Tripathi, Manvendra Singh, Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil, Ravi Prakash Verma, P.C. Gaddigoudar, Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, Yogi Aditya Nath, Atma Singh Gill, Nikhil Kumar, S. Ajaya Kumar, E.G. Sugavanam, M. Appadurai, Alok Kumar Mehta, A.R. Shaheen, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Dharmendra Pradhan, Francis K. George, Sarbananda Sonowal, Nihal Chand, Subhash Maharia, G.M. Siddeswara, Anwar Hussain, G. Karunakara Reddy, Ananta Nayak, Sippiparai Ravichandran, Bapu Hari Chaure, Kailash Baitha, Tufani Saroj, V.K. Thummar, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Abdullakutty, M. Shivanna, K.C. Singh 'Baba', Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Jai Prakash (Hissar), S. Mallikarjuniah, Chandra Bhan Singh, Amitava Nandy, Ilyas Azmi, Kiren Rijiju, Nera Hari Mahato, Harikewal Prasad, Vijoy Krishna, Shailendra Kumar, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Pannian Ravindran, Prahlad Joshi, Sunil Khan, Ravinder Naik Dharavath, Tapir Gao, A.V. Bellarmin, A. Sai Prathap, P. Karunakaran, Krishna Murari Moghe, J.M. Aaron Rashid, Ganesh Prasad Singh, Shankhlal Majhi, Punnu Lal Mohale, Surendra Prakash Goyal, Virchandra Paswan, Anirudh Prasad *alias* Sadhu Yadav, Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Basanagouda R. Patil, Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, T.K. Hamza, D. Narbula, K.V. Thangkabalu, Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Adhir Chowdhury, G. Nizamuddin, Sarvey Sathyanarayana, Suraj Singh, Basudeb Barman, Choudhary, Bijendra Singh, Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Dr. R. Senthil, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil, Dr. C. Krishnan, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. Arvind Sharma, Prof. Chander Kumar, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Smt. Minati Sen, Smt. Manorama Madhvaraj, Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan, Smt. P. Satheedevi, Smt. Kiran Maheshwari, Smt. Pratibha Singh, Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Smt. C.S. Sujatha, Smt. Karuna Shukla and Smt. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar

Regarding the passenger amenities, he pointed out that though the Minister had announced so many district headquarters railway stations as model stations, work had not been started towards that.

Shri Vanlalzawma (MNF) requested the Minister to take up the project of extending the railway line up to Sairang, the outskirts of Aizawl city and installation of computerized booking counters at Lunglei, Kolasib and other districts of Mizoram.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar (JD-Secular) said that out of the 32 new express trains announced, there was none for the State of Kerala. The State got the Garib Rath and that too only twice a week. He requested that this train should be made a daily train.

Replying to the discussion on 9 March 2007, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad said that it was for the first time in the history of the Indian Railways that an Outcome Budget had been presented. The Railways had become self-sufficient. For many years, he said that the Ministers of Railways did not pay any dividend, but, he had cleared all the backlog and there was a surplus of Rs.20,000 crore. The Railways had come out of financial crisis without increasing the passenger and the freight charges. He said that the freight charges for petrol and diesel had been brought down by 5 per cent and similarly, the freight charges for iron ore, limestone and bauxite had been brought down by 5 per cent for the benefit of the local industry. For the common man, additional four general class coaches were being provided in all the trains. The Railways had also introduced airconditioned Garib Rath. The fare structure of Indian Railways was the lowest in the world. From Depreciation Reserve Fund, money was being utilized for locomotives, rail lines and bridges. All round efforts were being made for construction of dedicated freight corridor as early as possible. Coaches made of aluminium were being provided so that scrap could be sold at high rates in case of fire in trains. On the one hand, the poor had been given all the concessions, but at the same time no additional charge had been levied on the rich. The Minister appealed to all the members to pass the Railway Budget.

All the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) were voted in full; all the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) were voted in full; the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2007 and the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2007 were passed and the Resolution was adopted.

The Budget (General), 2007-2008: Presenting the Budget (General), 2007-2008 on 28 February 2007, the Minister of Finance, Shri P.

Chidambaram said that the UPA Government crossed the midpoint of its term of office in November 2006 and presented a midterm report. He said that the average growth rate in the three years of the UPA Government was 8.6 per cent. Due to this impressive performance, despite the poor start in 2002-2003, the growth target set for the Tenth Plan at 8 per cent could be achieved somehow. During this three-year period, the growth rate in manufacturing had accelerated from 8.7 per cent to 9.1 per cent and further to 11.3 per cent; and in the services sector from 9.6 per cent to 9.8 per cent and further to 11.2 per cent. In the agriculture sector, there had been sharp ups and downs and the average growth during the Tenth Plan period was estimated at 2.3 per cent.

The Minister said that *Bharat Nirman* remained the cornerstone of the Government's policy and he was glad to report that under that Scheme the following could be achieved. In the current financial year, additional irrigation potential of 24,00,000 hectares was proposed to be created. Until December 2006, drinking water had been provided to 55,512 habitations; 12,198 kilometres of rural roads had been completed; 7,83,000 rural houses had been constructed and 9,14,000 houses were under construction; 19,758 villages had been covered so far under the *Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana*. Also, 15,054 villages had been provided with telephones against the target of 20,000 villages, and the balance would be covered by the end of the year.

As the year 2007-2008 marked the beginning of the Eleventh Plan, the Minister said that the declared objective was "faster and more inclusive growth". The Eleventh Plan aimed at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth rate of approximately 10 per cent by the end of its period. The other objectives of the Plan were: growth rate of 4 per cent in the agriculture sector; faster employment creation, reducing disparities across the regions and ensuring access to basic physical infrastructure as well as health and education services to all.

The Minister said that he proposed to substantially increase the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). In 2006-2007, the Gross Budgetary Support was fixed at Rs.1,72,728 crore and, out of this, support to the Central Plan was kept at Rs.1,31,284 crore. The GBS for 2007-2008 would be increased to Rs.2,05,100 crore. Out of this, the Central Plan would receive Rs.1,54,939 crore. For *Bharat Nirman*, as against Rs.18,696 crore (including the NER component) in 2006-2007, the Minister proposed to provide Rs.24,603 crore in 2007-2008, an increase of 31.6 per cent. The allocation for education had been enhanced by 34.2 per cent to

Rs.32,352 crore and for health and family welfare by 21.9 per cent to Rs.15,291 crore. The Minister proposed to enhance the allocation for the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission from Rs.4,680 crore in 2006-2007 to Rs.5,850 crore in 2007-2008. Regarding the National Rural Health Mission, the Minister said that all districts in the country would complete preparation of the District Health Action Plans by March 2007. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) would be expanded from the current level of 200 districts to 330 districts. Regarding Integrated Child Development Services, the Minister said that the Government was committed to expand the scheme in order to cover all habitations and settlements during the Eleventh Plan and proposed to increase the allocation for ICDS from Rs.4,087 crore in 2006-2007 to Rs.4,761 crore in 2007-2008. A scheme for evaluation, monitoring, management and strengthening of targeted PDS would be implemented which would include computerization of PDS and an integrated information system in Food Corporation of India. An allocation of Rs.3,271 crore had been made in respect of schemes benefiting only the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The allocation for North Eastern Region (NER) had been increased from Rs.12,041 crore to Rs.14,365 crore and a new industrial policy for NER, with suitable fiscal incentives, would be in place before 31 March 2007.

In the agriculture sector, the Minister said that farm credit continued to grow at a satisfactory pace. For 2007-2008, a target of Rs.2,25,000 crore had been fixed as farm credit with an addition of 50 lakh new farmers to the banking system. Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) 35 projects were likely to be completed in 2006-2007 and the outlay for 2007-2008 had been increased to Rs.11,000 crore from Rs.7,121 crore in 2006-2007. Regarding agricultural insurance, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) would be continued in its present form for Kharif and Rabi 2007-08 with a provision of Rs.500 crore for the scheme.

In the Infrastructure sector, the Minister said that the Ministry of Power had awarded two Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) in Sasan and Mundra. Seven more UMPPs were under process and the Government was confident that at least two more would be awarded by July 2007. Other initiatives include: facilitating the setting up of merchant power plants by private developers and private participation; restructuring of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Project to cover all district headquarters and towns with a population of more than 50,000; and increase in the allocation of the outlay for the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana from Rs.3,000 crore to Rs.3,983 crore.

The work on the golden quadrilateral was nearly complete and expected to be completed by 2009. The provision for the National Highway Development Programme had been increased from Rs.9,945 crore in 2006-2007 to Rs.10,667 crore next year.

Coming to Industry, the Minister said that energy security was high on the Government's agenda. In the six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy, so far, 162 production sharing contracts had been awarded. Indian and foreign companies had already made an investment of Rs.97,000 crore in exploration. Similarly, after three rounds of bidding, 23 coal bed methane blocks had been awarded for exploration. In textiles industry, the provision for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP) had been increased from Rs.189 crore to Rs.425 crore; and Technology Upgradation Fund scheme would continue with a provision of Rs.911 crore in 2007-2008. The allocation for development of the handloom industry had been enhanced from Rs.241 crore to Rs.321 crore.

In the Services sector, merchandise exports crossed the milestone of US$100 billion in 2005-2006 and were expected to cross another milestone of US$125 billion by the end of the current fiscal. Provision for building tourist infrastructure had been increased from Rs.423 crore in 2006-2007 to Rs.520 crore in 2007-2008. The Minister also proposed to increase the allocation for Defence to Rs.96,000 crore, which included Rs.41,922 crore for capital expenditure. The Government had launched an ambitious programme for e-governance, and the allocation for the same had been increased from Rs.395 crore in 2006-2007 to Rs.719 crore in 2007-2008. The Backward Regions Grant Fund had been increased from Rs.5,000 crore in 2006-2007 to Rs.5,800 crore in 2007-2008.

Coming to the Budget Estimates for 2007-2008, the Minister said that the estimated Plan Expenditure for 2007-2008 was Rs.2,05,100 crore. As a proportion of total expenditure (net of the SBI share acquisition), Plan expenditure would be 32.0 per cent. Non-Plan Expenditure in 2007-2008 (net of the SBI share acquisition) was estimated at Rs.4,35,421. The increase over 2006-2007 was only 6.5 per cent. In the Budget Estimates for 2007-2008, the total expenditure was estimated at Rs.6,80,521 crore (including Rs.40,000 crore for the SBI share acquisition). The Total Revenue Receipts of the Central Government were projected to be Rs.4,86,422 crore and the Revenue Expenditure to be Rs.5,57,900 crore. Consequently, the Revenue Deficit was estimated at Rs.71,478 crore which was 1.5 per cent of the GDP. The Fiscal Deficit was estimated at Rs.1,50,948 crore, which was 3.3 per cent of the GDP.

Coming to his tax proposals, the Minister said that the UPA Government had promised that tax rates would be stable and conducive to growth, compliance and investment. The increase in gross tax revenue was proof of a promise fulfilled. While the Government had raised more tax revenue it had also left more money in the hands of the people as savings and for investment. He said that the Government had intended to keep the tax rates moderate and stable and administer the tax laws in a tax payer-friendly manner.

In the Indirect taxes, the Minister announced, among others, the reduction in customs duties for: non-agricultural products from 12.5 per cent to 10 per cent; on most chemicals and plastics from 12.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent; on polyester fibres and yarns from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent, etc. and levy of 3 per cent duty on all private import of aircraft including helicopters and a duty of Rs.300 per metric tonne on export of iron ores, concentrates, etc. He also announced, among others, reduction in the *ad valorem* component of excise duty on petrol and diesel from 8 per cent to 6 per cent; rise in the exemption limit for small scale industry (SSI) from Rs.1 crore to Rs.1.5 crore; increase in specific rates of duty on cigarettes by about 5 per cent, etc. The Minister also announced the rise in exemption limit for small service providers from Rs.4,00,000 to Rs.8,00,000; exemption to services provided by technology business incubators, clinical trial of new drugs, etc.

In the Direct taxes, the Minister announced, *inter alia,* increase in the threshold limit of exemption of all income tax assessee by Rs.10,000, thus giving every assessee a relief of Rs.1,000; removal of surcharge on income tax on all firms and companies with a taxable income of Rs.1 crore or less and levying of an additional cess of 1 per cent on all taxes to fund secondary education and higher education, etc.

The Minister said that his tax proposals on direct taxes were estimated to yield a gain of Rs.3,000 crore and on the indirect taxes side, the proposals were revenue neutral. He said that the UPA Government had delivered on the promise of savings and investment and would deliver on the promise of encouraging more savings and translating the savings into more investment. The Government had delivered on the promise of growth and would deliver on the promise of making growth more inclusive. With these words, he commended the Budget to the House.

The general and combined discussion on the Budget (General), 2007-2008; Demands for Grants on Account (General), 2007-2008; and

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2006-2007 took place on 12, 13, 14 and 16 March 2007.

Initiating the discussion on 12 March 2007, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that the price rise of the essential commodities was the foremost issue and, as such, the growth rate of 8 or 9 per cent did not make any difference. The farmers did not get remunerative prices and that was the reason why their plight was so miserable. The Government had promised that 6 per cent of the GDP would be earmarked and spent for education. However, there had been a reduction of 34.4 per cent under the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. There had been a great negligence in the sphere of health and education. There was no mention of the 26 crore people living below the poverty line. Hence, he termed the Budget as anti-poor and anti-masses.

Participating in the discussion* on 13 March 2007, Shri Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen urged that more funds may be allocated for the education and access to credit for the Muslims must be given due consideration.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that requisite emphasis on social justice and equitable distribution had not been given in the Budget. As a result, the poor were becoming poorer and the rich were becoming

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri K.S. Rao, P. Karunakaran, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Tathagata Satpathy, S.K. Kharventhan, Shailendra Kumar, Bikram Keshari Deo, V.K. Thummar, Subhash Maharia, Francis Fanthome, Nihal Chand, Mitrasen Yadav, K.C. Singh 'Baba', J.M. Aaron Rashid, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Brahmananda Panda, Kharabela Swain, M. Appadurai, C. Kuppusami, D. Narbula, Hiten Barman, Vijoy Krishna, Hemlal Murmu, Nikhil Kumar, M. Shivanna, Prahlad Joshi, N.S.V. Chitthan, Rakesh Singh Thakur, Lakshman Singh, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Munshi Ram, Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, S. Mallikarjuniah, Virendra Kumar, R.L. Jalappa, Shankhlal Majhi, Anirudh Prasad alias Sadhu Yadav, Sanat Kumar Mandal, Lonappan Nambadan, T.K. Hamza, Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, Basudeb Barman, Jai Prakash (Hissar), Tapir Gao, Francis K. George, Chandramani Tripathi, Avinash Rai Khanna, Deepender Singh Hooda, Mahavir Bhagora, Bapu Hari Chaure, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Hansraj G. Ahir, Kiren Rijiju, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Naveen Jindal, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Manjunath Kunnur, Bhupendrasinh Solanki, Pannian Ravindran, Balashowry Vallabhaneni, Ram Kripal Yadav, Sartaj Singh Chhatwal, Harikewal Prasad, Ganesh Singh, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, Sippiparai Ravichandaran, Sarbananda Sonowal, K.V. Thangkabalu, G. Karunakara Reddy, A. Sai Prathap, Suresh Angadi, Tek Lal Mahato, Krishna Murari Moghe, Shripad Yesso Naik, G.M. Siddeswara, Ch. Lal Singh, Mohammad Salim, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. C. Krishnan, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Sebastian Paul, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Arvind Sharma, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Prof. Chander Kumar, Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Ms. Ingrid Mcleod, Smt. V. Radhika Selvi, Smt. Sushila Kerketta, Smt. K. Rani, Smt. C.S. Sujatha, Smt. P. Satheedevi, Smt. Neeta Pateriya, Smt. Pratibha Singh and Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha

richer. This policy, therefore, should be evaluated in favour of the common man, he added.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta (CPI) expressed his unhappiness stating that suggestions given by his party in preparation of the General Budget had been bypassed. The Left had suggested a large budget; pleaded for larger allocation for agriculture; for widening the tax base; for taxing the rich; and for finding money to feed the poor. However, he said that their hopes had been belied.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) said that the Budget marked another milestone in the direction of growth and social justice. This was an outcome Budget focusing not only in the outlay but also in the outcome of that expenditure.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar (JD-S) expressed his anguish over not giving enough importance to the plight of the destitute farmers. He also pointed out that, on the one hand, Bank's interest rate had been increased but there was no corresponding increase in the interest rate on the Provident fund accumulations of the workers and small savings in the Post Office where *Aam Admi* put his savings.

Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak (NPF) said that the money sanctioned for the North-east region for the year 2005-2006 had not yet been released. He, therefore, requested the Central Government to have correlation between the funds and the routes to be developed for the North-eastern States.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) suggested that spices, rubber and other cash crops be included in agricultural insurance. He requested the Government to allot Rs.10 crore for procuring vanilla to make up for the losses suffered by the farmers due to its falling prices.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) said that justice should be provided to dalits, the unemployed, SCs/STs, tribals, farmers, labourers and women and a lot of measures were required in this direction.

Replying to the discussion on 16 March 2007, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that inflation was uppermost in the minds of most of the members. The current inflation was driven largely by the primary articles group in which the supply had not matched with the demand. The production of wheat, rice and pulses had stagnated during the last 10 years. Demand for each of these items was rising every year. The only long-term answer was to increase the production and the productivity. Since inflation was a monetary phenomenon, RBI had the direct responsibility for maintaining the price stability and had

already taken a number of steps to moderate money supply. In the short term, the Government could only reduce customs duties as well as import these items to the extent they were available in the world market.

The Minister said that the Congress Party became the single largest party at the last elections on the plank of the *aam admi.* The Government had promised to provide jobs for 1,00,000 physically challenged; to provide 1,00,000 scholarships and it had launched the *Aam Admi Bima Yojana.* There were other items like expansion of scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and the minorities. There was relief to senior citizens. There was tax relief to the small scale industry, the small firm, the small company and the small service provider. For the first time in recent years, the Budget focused sharply on agriculture. It addressed the five critical issues which affected agriculture: credit, water, seeds, fertilizer and power.

The Minister stated that a major feature of any Budget was allocation of the resources raised among various heads of expenditure. He said that the members would find that in the three years of the UPA Government, the outlays had increased dramatically. In every sector, the UPA Government had, at the end of the three years and at the beginning of the fourth year, made much larger allocations than in all the six years of the NDA Government. He said that all these had been possible without departing from the fiscal responsibility. The Government had raised revenue in a responsible manner and it had allocated funds in a responsive manner.

All the Demands for Grants on Account and all the Demands for Supplementary Grants were voted in full; the Appropriation Vote on Account Bill, 2007 and the Appropriation Bill, 2007 were passed.

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address: On 23 February 2007, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed the members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together. The Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address was moved by Shri Madhusudan Mistry of the Indian National Congress on 1 March 2007. The discussion on the Motion took place on 1, 7 and 8 March 2007.

Moving the Motion, Shri Madhusudan Mistry said that the President's Address had mentioned programmes for the betterment of the common people. The Government had not only raised the allocation for various programmes but also presented a statement of details of sources of earnings, expenditures and positive changes made. He said that the

Address also mentioned price rise and inflation which had already started declining a week back. The Government had allocated maximum amount for agriculture and thus more importance was given to this sector. Particular care had been taken of oil seeds and other crops and maximum development of these crops had been ensured, he added.

Seconding the Motion, Shri Sandeep Dikshit (INC) said that the President of India had put in his words that growth in itself was never complete and that real growth was felt only when it was comprehensive, equitable and all pervading. He said that the President had mentioned the policies of the Government in the right earnest and thus enlightened the people of the ways in which his Government was grappling with their problems. For all this, he thanked the President.

Participating in the discussion*, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani (BJP) said that the present Government had singularly failed to fulfil the promises which it made to the common man. The rising prices had widely distressed the common man. When the NDA was in power, he said that no inflation was witnessed in so far as the essential commodities were concerned and it was because the prices were well managed. He wanted that the Government should frame a holistic policy to reduce the suicide rates committed by the farmers to zero level. He said that the issue of security had not been given adequate attention in the President's Address. He also requested the Prime Minister to apprise the country and the House in his reply as to what steps were being taken to see that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh were sent back to Bangladesh where they belong.

Shri Basudeb Acharia (CPI-M) said he was surprised that nowhere in the President's Address there was a mention of communal incidents taking place in the country today. He said that *Rashtrapatiji* had referred to growth. But even after 60 year of Independence, there were thousands and thousands of people who went to bed with empty

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ramji Lal Suman, Ilyas Azmi, Sita Ram Singh, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Anant Kumar, E.G. Sugavanam, C.K. Chandrappan, Raghunath Jha, Dharmendra Pradhan, Harikewal Prasad, V.K. Thummar, Munshi Ram, Sanat Kumar Mandal, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Shailendra Kumar, Adhir Chowdhury, Tapir Gao, Francis Fanthome, Ravinder Naik Dharavath, S.K. Kharventhan, Suresh Kurup, M. Shivanna, Aruna Kumar Vundavalli, A.R. Shaheen, Kiren Rijiju, Avinash Rai Khanna, Sarbananda Sonowal, Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, Mani Charenamei, P. Mohan, Prahlad Joshi, Alok Kumar Mehta, Francis K. George, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Virendra Kumar, Nand Kumar Sai, Manjunath Kunnur, H.D. Devegowda, Ch. Lal Singh, Dr. Rajesh Mishra, Dr. C. Krishnan, Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Smt. Tejaswini Seeramesh, Smt. V. Radhika Selvi, Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan, Smt. Karuna Shukla, Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha and Smt. Kiran Maheshwari

stomach. India would shine if the condition of crores and crores of poor people and middle class people improve and their suffering came to an end.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) while commending all round achievements of the Government said that there was hardly any area which had not been touched by the President in his Address. He, however, urged the Government to take care of the growing interests of the Backward Class people.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that in the President's Address much emphasis was given on the growth rate of 9.2 per cent, but poverty was also increasing. He suggested that the crop loan should be reduced to four per cent, and then only the farmers would be benefited.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) said that the Approach paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan showed that there were nine major challenges to the economy, but not even a single word was mentioned about the uplift of Muslims.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) said that the ONGC had decided to dig the first well in the Cochin High area but the process was going at snail's pace. He urged the Government to give due importance to the energy sector and take up the work in Cochin High as a priority so that the energy problem of India could be solved to a great extent.

Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma (AGP) said that the President's Address had miserably failed to address the major issues of concern like price rise and unemployment. He also requested the Government to resume peace talks with the ULFA, and other militant outfits who were operating in the North-eastern region.

Replying to the discussion on 8 March 2007, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on his behalf and on behalf of all the members expressed gratitude to the respected Rashtrapati ji for his inspiring Address. He said that the primary concern, as a nation, was to work steadfastly for the removal of mass poverty, ignorance and disease which still afflicted millions and millions of people in the country. A considerable progress had been made to soften the harsh edges of extreme poverty. But there was a long journey ahead and the primary concern of the Government was to widen the opportunities for the progress of an inclusive growth process which would make all sections of the community effective partners in the process of development.

The Prime Minister said that the economy, in the last three years, had grown at an average rate of 8.2 per cent per annum. For the first

time in history, the Government managed to raise the investment rate to 34 per cent of the GDP. It had managed to raise the savings rate close to 32 per cent of the GDP. Growth was a necessary condition of tackling the enormous social and economic problems that the country faced. But it was not a sufficient condition. Therefore, he said that it was required to pursue a purposeful strategy which would ensure that the growth process benefits all sections of the population; not only that, the policies and programmes should be such as to improve the productivity of agriculture and reduce the regional disparities.

The Prime Minister said that the modernization of agricultural research and extension service would receive priority attention. The districts characterized by agricultural distress had been identified. The *Bharat Nirman*, a programme designed to develop rural infrastructure with emphasis on irrigation, rural roads, rural electrification, safe drinking water and rural housing would also be a major contribution for improving the quality of rural infrastructure. On the concerns expressed by several members about the rise in prices, he said that the Government was trying to curb inflationary pressure without adversely affecting the strong growth impulses which now characterized the economy. Regarding the issues of internal security, he said that whether in the North-eastern Region, Jammu and Kashmir or in the naxalite affected districts, the over all internal security situation today was far better than what was seen during the previous Government. On the problem of unemployment, the Prime Minister said that the rapidly growing economy was the best generator of jobs. In Rural India, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) provided a basic minimum social safety net to the rural poor in the form of 100 days of assured employment. Simultaneously, the youth were being equipped through the modernisation of IITs, the Vocational Educational Mission. With regard to communalism, he made a mention that the UPA Government came into power because the people rejected the forces of communalism and sectarianism. The UPA Government would never allow anyone to weaken the country's democratic tradition and the Government remained committed to its constitutional and national values of secularism and pluralism. On foreign policy, he said that the Government had been able to forge a broad national consensus on its foreign policy orientation. The Government regarded national security and the need to create a global environment conducive to the country's rapid economic development as the key defining elements of its foreign policy. Thanking the President for his Address to the House, he once again expressed gratitude to the members for their thoughtful comments on various issues of national and local concern.

All the amendments moved were negatived and the Motion was adopted.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 19 March 2007, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram stated that the Bill had been introduced in order to carry out necessary amendments to the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 and the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 with a view to commencing the process of phasing out the Central Sales Tax (CST) in line with the consensus arrived at between the Central Government and the State Governments. The Minister said that the CST was levied under the provisions of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 on the sale of goods in the course of inter-State trade or commerce. The CST was levied by the Central Government by virtue of Entry 92A of the Union List, but the same was assigned to the States within which the tax was leviable, by virtue of provisions of article 269 of the Constitution. The CST was leviable in the originating State, that is, the State from where the movement of the goods commenced and was collected and appropriated entirely by such State. The CST Act was administered by the States by virtue of provisions of section 9 of the Act. The CST, being an origin-based tax, was inconsistent with VAT (which was a destination-based tax). Moreover, CST resulted in cascading of tax (that is, tax on tax) since it was not rebatable against VAT.

The Minister said that due to these reasons, there had been a consensus that the CST should be phased out. This was also a pre-requisite for introduction of an integrated Goods and Services Tax (GST), which the Government proposed to introduce by 1 April 2010. The issue of phasing out of the CST had been deliberated upon for over a decade. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers had been making efforts in this direction since July 2000. One of the main points of discussion had been that of the package of compensation for the States for revenue loss on account of phasing out of the CST. The total CST collection during 2005-2006 was about Rs.18,000 crore, growing at the rate of over 18 per cent per annum. Since this revenue would be completely lost when the CST was phased out, the States had been insisting on a package for compensating them for this revenue loss. In this connection, the Minister said that he had held meetings with the State Finance Ministers. Finally, a consensus had been arrived at between the Central Government and the State Governments on the roadmap for phasing out of the CST as also on the package of

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9 March 2007

compensation to the States for revenue loss on this account. The implementation of the above proposals required the amendment of the CST Act as also the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957. Consequently, the CST Act was proposed to be amended to provide for reduction of the CST rate.

The Bill was passed.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2007:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 19 March 2007, the Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said that he was thankful to the House for passing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill earlier but its provisions were not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir because of the provisions contained under article 370 of the Constitution. Hence, he said that the Government had asked the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir that they might get it passed by the State Assembly and enact a law in this regard but they again urged the Central Government to get it passed by the Parliament. Therefore, he said that he had brought this amendment for consideration and approval of the House.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (the NREG Act) provided for a legal guarantee for at least hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. In terms of sub-section (2) of section 1, the NREG Act was not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir had, however, recommended that the NREG Act might be extended to that State. Based on the recommendation of the State Government, it had been decided to extend the NREG Act to the State of Jammu and Kashmir so that the people residing in the rural areas of the State were benefited. An Employment Guarantee Scheme was already in operation in three identified districts in the State on the lines of the NREG Act, for which funds were being provided to the State as were being given to other States under the Act. The proposed amendment would provide a legal backing to the Scheme in operation, by guaranteeing at least hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to the wage seekers of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. By making an amendment in section 1(2) of the NREG Act, all the provisions of the Act would be applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Bill was passed.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7 March 2007

STATE LEGISLATURES

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth Assam Legislative Assembly commenced its Fourth Session on 26 February 2007. There was a recess during the Session *w.e.f.* 17 March 2007 to 25 March 2007 for holding meetings of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 30 March 2007. There were 20 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Governor of Assam Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Ajai Singh addressed the House on 26 February 2007. The Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address was moved on the same day and was deliberated for two days. At the end of the discussion, the Motion was passed on 28 February 2007.

Financial business: On 26 February 2007, the Chief Minister, Shri Tarun Gogoi, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented to the House the List of the Supplementary Demands for Grants and Supplementary Appropriation for the year 2006-2007. The Supplementary Demands for Grants 2006-2007 were passed on 5 March 2007. Subsequently, the relevant Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2007 was introduced, considered and passed by the House on the same day.

On 12 March 2007, the Annual Financial Statement (Budget Estimates) of the Government of Assam for the year 2007-2008 was presented and the Chief Minister made the Budget Speech on the same day. General discussion on the Budget was held for four days, *i.e.* on 13, 14, 15 and 16 March 2007.

The report of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee was presented in the House on 26 March 2007. The House devoted four days (26, 27, 28 and 29 March 2007) for voting on Demands for Grants and after voting, the Demands for Grants were passed by the House. The Assam Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007 was introduced, considered and passed by the House on the same day.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of 15 prominent persons.

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Third Delhi Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Budget

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* Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Session on 21 March 2007 and was adjourned *sine die* on 23 April 2007. There were 10 sittings in all.

Address by the Lieutenant Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri B.L. Joshi addressed the House on 21 March 2007. The Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant Governor's Address was moved on 11 April 2007 and adopted on 16 April 2007. Eight members participated in the debate, which was replied to by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session, (i) The Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2007; (ii) The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007; (iii) The Delhi Diploma Level Technical Education Institutions (Prohibition of Capitation Fee, Regulation of Admission, Fixation of Non-exploitative Fee and Other Measures to Ensure Equity and Excellence) Bill, 2007; (iv) The Delhi Professional Colleges or Institutions (Prohibition of Capitation Fee, Regulations of Admission, Fixation of Non-exploitative Fee and Other Measures to Ensure Equity and Excellence) Bill, 2007; and (v) The Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Viswavidyalaya Bill, 2007 were considered and passed by the House.

Financial business: On 16 April 2007, the Finance Minister Shri A.K. Walia presented the Annual Budget. The discussion on the Annual Budget commenced on 17 April 2007 in which 15 members participated. It concluded on 19 April 2007 with the reply by the Finance Minister. The Budget was passed on the same day.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Markandey Singh, former Lt. Governor of Delhi; and Sarvashri Ram Lal and Ram Prakash Gupta, both former members of Delhi Metropolitan Council. Tributes were also paid to the people who lost their lives in the bomb blasts in Samjhauta Express; Police Jawans killed in Naxalite attack in Chhattisgarh; and Farmer's, who died in police firing in Nandigram, West Bengal. The House also paid homage to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, great martyrs of the Indian freedom struggle.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourth Goa Legislative Assembly which commenced its Second Session on 5 March 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 9 March 2007. There were five sittings in all. The Governor prorogued the House on 17 March 2007.

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* Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Legislative business: During the Session, the following four Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Goa Land Revenue (Modification and Regularization of Grants) Bill, 2007; (ii) The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iii) The Goa Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007; and (iv) The Goa Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

Financial business: On 5 March 2007, Chief Minister, Shri Pratapsinh Raoji Rane, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Third Batch) for the year 2006-2007. The discussion and voting took place on 6 March 2007 and thereafter the connected Appropriation Bill was passed.

On 7 March 2007, Shri Pratapsinh Rane presented the Annual Financial Statement (Budget Estimates) for the year 2007-2008.

On 8 March 2007, the Vote on Account for a part of the financial year 2007-2008 was presented to the House. The voting was held and it was passed by the House on same day. The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill was also passed on the same day.

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Gujarat Legislative Assembly which commenced its Eleventh Session on 22 February 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on 30 March 2007. The House was prorogued by the Governor on the same day. There were 28 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Governor of Gujarat, Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma addressed the House on 22 February 2007. On the same day Shri Bharatbhai Pandya moved the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address, which was seconded by Smt. Ramilaben Bara. The Motion was discussed in three sittings on 27 and 28 February 2007 and 1 March 2007. At the end of the discussion, the Motion was passed on 1 March 2007.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 24 Government Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Gujarat Emergency Medical Services Bill, 2007; (ii) The Gujarat Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iii) The Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporations (Gujarat Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2007; (iv) The Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University Bill, 2007; (v) The Gujarat Industrial Development (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2007; (vi) The Gujarat Industrial Development (Second

* Material contributed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Amendment) Bill, 2007; (vii) The Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (viii) The Gujarat Professional Technical Educational Colleges or Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fees) Bill, 2007; (ix) The Gujarat Professional Medical Educational Colleges or Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fees) Bill, 2007; (x) The Gujarat Tax on Luxuries (Hotel and Lodging Houses) (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xi) The Gujarat Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xii) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xiii) The Gujarat Education Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xiv) The Bombay Electricity Duty (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xv) The Bombay Stamp (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xvi) The Bombay Stamp (Gujarat Second Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xvii) The Gujarat Special Economic Zone (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xviii) The Gujarat Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xix) The Gujarat Technological University Bill, 2007; (xx) The Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xxi) The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2007; (xxii) The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007; (xxiii) The Gujarat Water Users Participatory Irrigation Management Bill, 2007; and (xxiv) The Kadi Sarva Vishwa Vidyalaya Bill, 2007.

Financial business: The Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 2006-2007 was presented to the House on 23 February 2007. The Statement included 83 Demands out of which ten Demands were chosen for discussion on 2 and 5 March 2007 in two sittings and passed by the House. The remaining demands were guillotined and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2007 was passed by the House on 7 March 2007.

On 23 February 2007, the Finance Minister Shri Vajubhai Vala presented the Budget for the year 2007-2008 to the House. Out of the 104 Demands for Grants, 49 demands were discussed and passed in 12 sittings. The remaining demands were guillotined. The Appropriation Bill, 2007 was passed by the House on 28 March 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of 13 prominent personalities.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Thirteenth Session on 22 February 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on

* Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

5 April 2007. The Governor prorogued the House on the same day. There were 24 sittings in all.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Hokishe Sema, former Governor of Himachal Pradesh; and Sarvashri Baldev Chand, Moti Ram Thakur and Kashmir Singh Rana, all former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL*

The Hundred and Sixth Session of the Karnataka Legislative Council, which commenced on 25 January 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on 14 April 2007. There were 34 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Karnataka, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi addressed members of both the Houses assembled together on 25 January 2007. The House unanimously adopted the resolution on Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address on 20 February 2007.

Election of Chairman: On 5 April 2007, Prof. B.K. Chandrashekar was elected unopposed as the 23rd Chairman of the State Legislative Council.

Legislative business: During the Session, twenty-one Bills as passed by the State Legislative Assembly were taken up by the House for consideration. After discussion, 14 Bills were passed, five Bills were defeated, and one Bill has been pending before the House for consideration. A Bill *viz.* the Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Bill, 2007 was referred to the Select Committee. Further, the Karnataka Unorganised Workers Welfare Bill, 2002, which was listed for withdrawal, was discussed and re-referred to the Select Committee to submit its report to the House within one month.

Financial business: On 16 March 2007, the Budget Estimates for the year 2007-08 were placed before the House and 23 members participated in the discussion on the Budget Speech.

The Supplementary Estimates (Second and Third Instalment) were presented for the year ending 31 March 2006, in accordance with article 205 (1) of the Constitution of India.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former members of the Parliament, former members of the State Legislative Council and the State Legislative Assembly and other important dignitaries.

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* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Council Secretariat

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth Karnataka Legislative Assembly, which met for its Fifth Session from 25 January 2007 to 21 February 2007 and again from 14 March 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 13 April 2007. There were 34 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Karnataka, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi addressed members of both the Houses assembled together on 25 January 2007. A Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was adopted by the House.

Legislative business: During the Session, 21 Bills including the Appropriation Bill were passed by the House.

Financial business: On 20 February 2007, the Deputy Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yediyurappa, who also holds the Finance Portfolio, presented the Medium term Performance Report of the State Finance for the year 2006-07. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Commercial) for the year ending 31 March 2006 were laid on the Table of the House. The Supplementary Estimates (II and Final Instalments) for the year 2006-07 were presented to the House and adopted.

On 16 March 2007, the Deputy Chief Minister and the Finance Minister presented the Budget Estimates for the year 2007-08 and the general discussion was held for five days and Vote on Account up to 31 July 2007 was adopted.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri U.T. Fareed, a sitting member of the State Legislative Assembly; Sarvashri Y. Ramachandra, D. Narayandas and M.L. Ustad, all former Ministers; Balavantha Rao Devarao Patel, M. Basappa, Manjappa Ullal, D. Halage Gowda, P.N. Reddy and Gopalarao Mudabi, all former members of the Legislative Assembly; Jagadguru Sri Sri Punyanada Puri Swamiji of Parama Poojya Rajanahalli Valmiki Mutt; and Shri Purnachandra Tejaswi, a famous Kannada Litterateur.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Ninth Manipur Legislative Assembly which commenced its First Session on 16 March 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 22 March 2007.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Manipur, Dr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu addressed members of the Assembly on 16 March 2007.

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* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved by Shri N. Mangi and seconded by Dr. Kh. Loken Singh.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following two Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2007; and (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri M. Babu Singh, former member of the State Legislative Assembly; Shri Soyam Satradhari, the then member of the Electoral College of Manipur, 1952; Shri Th. Chandrasekhar Singh and Shri K. Borthakur Sharma, both former members of the Manipur Territorial Council.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Nagaland Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Fourteenth Session on 20 March 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 29 March 2007.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Nagaland, Shri K. Sankaranarayanan addressed the House on 20 March 2006. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Deo Nukhu and seconded by Shri Atomi. Fifteen members participated in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks, which was replied to by the Chief Minister, Shri Neiphiu Rio. Thereafter, the House adopted the Motion.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Nagaland Recovery of Loans Bill, 2007; (ii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2007; and (iii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007.

Financial business: The Chief Minister, Shri Neiphiu Rio who also holds the Finance Portfolio presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2006-2007. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2006-2007 were taken up and the Demands for Grants Nos. 1-79 (barring Demands Nos. 2, 8, 10, 18, 20, 23, 24, 33, 34, 40, 44, 52, 57, 65, 66, 71, 73, 75 and 80) were passed by a voice vote.

The Chief Minister presented the Budget for the year 2007-2008. Shri I. Imkong, Leader of the Opposition initiated the general discussion

* Material contributed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat

on the Budget in which 12 members participated. The Chief Minister replied to the discussion. The Leader of the Opposition Shri I. Imkong and rest of the 16 members of the Opposition tabled 44 Cut Motions, out of which Cut Motions to Demand Nos. 28-Civil Police, No-42 Rural Development and No-53 Industries, after having been discussed were voted out after being put to vote. The rest of the Cut Motions were withdrawn by the members after clarifications were given by the Ministers of the concerned Departments. The House passed Demands No. 1 to 79 (except Demands No.2, 10 and 75), by a voice vote.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Dr. Hokishe Sema, former Governor of Himachal Pradesh and former Chief Minister of Nagaland and also member of the Tenth Nagaland Legislative Assembly.

8

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TENTH SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23 February 2007 to 20 March 2007 26 April 2007 to 17 May 2007
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	32
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	119 hours and 32 minutes
4.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	27
	(ii) Introduced	19
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha	2
	(iv) Reported by Standing Committee	5
	(v) Referred to Departmentally-Related Standing Committees by Speaker, Lok Sabha/Chairman, Rajya Sabha	4
	(vi) Discussed	22
	(vii) Passed	22
	(viii) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	8
	(ix) Pending at the end of the Session	26
5.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	202
	(ii) Introduced	14
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Passed	Nil
	(v) Withdrawn	1
	(vi) Part-discussed	1
	(vii) Pending at the end of the Session	215
6.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	894
	(ii) Admitted	278
	(iii) Discussed	Nil
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	324
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	156

9.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	417
	(ii) Admitted	6
	(iii) Discussions held	3
	(iv) Part-discussed	1
10.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention to matters of Urgent Public Importance)	3
11.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372 (Including 6 by Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs)	57
12.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	37
	(ii) Admitted	3
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Negatived	1
13.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	2
	(ii) Admitted	2
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	1
14.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Received	11
	(ii) Admitted	10
	(iii) Discussed	1
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Part-discussed	1
15.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Total number of Notices received	12
	(ii) Brought before the House	Nil
	(iii) Consent withheld by the Speaker, Lok Sabha outside the House	12
16.	NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE(S) CONSTITUTED, IF ANY DURING THE SESSION	4
17.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	15,066 passes
18.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,147 passes issued on 3 May 2007

19. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

(i)	Starred	621
(ii)	Unstarred	5,928
(iii)	Short Notice Questions	Nil
(iv)	Half-an-Hour discussions	Nil

20. PETITIONS PRESENTED — 1

21. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATE — 12 Members (One each on 2, 7 & 20 March and 14 May 2007, Six on 26 April 2007 and two on 15 May 2007)

22. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

(i)	Notices received	16
(ii)	Brought before the House	Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2007	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of Women	2	1
iv)	Committee on Estimates	3	—
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	—	—
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	—	—
xi)	Committee of Privileges	—	—
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	4	2
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	4	1
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	4	3
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xvii)	House Committee		
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—

	b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xviii)	Library Committee	—	—
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	1	—
xx)	Rules Committee	—	—
	JOINT / SELECT COMMITTEE		
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—
	DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES		
i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	4	1
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	5	—
iv)	Committee on Defence	12	1
v)	Committee on Energy	4	—
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	4	1
vii)	Committee on Finance	3	—
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	—	—
x)	Committee on Labour	—	—
xi)	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	2	—
xii)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	—	—
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment	1	—
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	4	2
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	2	—

CELL ON PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Sl. No.	Name of Forum	No. of Meetings held during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2007	No. of lectures held
1.	Parliamentary Forum on Children	1	—
2.	Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management	2	—
3.	Parliamentary Forum on Youth	2	—
4.	Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health	—	—

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND TENTH SESSION (FIRST QUARTER) OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2007	No. of Reports presented
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	5	1
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	2	Nil
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	3	Nil
(v)	Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	1	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	1	3
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	2	Nil
Department-related Standing Committees:			
(x)	Commerce	7	Nil
(xi)	Home Affairs	9	3
(xii)	Human Resource Development	5	5
(xiii)	Industry	7	4
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	5	Nil
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	5	2
(xvi)	Health & Family Welfare	3	2
(xvii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	8	1
Other Committees			
(xviii)	Committee on Ethics	1	Nil
(xix)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	2	Nil
(xx)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	2	Nil
(xxi)	Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards	3	Nil

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2007

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	15.3.2007 to 20.3.2007	5	3(3)	—	88(84)	38(24)	—
Assam L.A.	26.2.2007 to 30.3.2007	20	10(10)	—	1,062(380)	596(882)*	254(239)
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	23.2.2007 to 28.3.2007	22	–(19)	—	1,459(1425)	–(5)	531(468)
Chhattisgarh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.	22.1.2007 to 25.1.2007	4	6(5)	—	172(140)	383(381)	—
Gujarat L.A.	22.2.2007 to 30.3.2007	28	24(24)	5	4,752(2948)	94(81)	11(4)
Haryana L.A.	9.3.2007 to 22.3.2007	10	15(15)	—	188(133)	48(32)	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	22.2.2007 to 5.4.2007	24	7(6)	—	1,278(725)	181(119)	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	8.1.2007 to 9.2.2007	33	8(7)	5(1)	522(467)	357(302)	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	25.1.2007 to 13.4.2007	34	20(21)	—	388(388)	2,089(2,089)	—
Karnataka L.C.	25.1.2007 to 14.4.2007	34	21(14)	—	1,417(330)	595(1,682)*	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.	16.3.2007 to 22.3.2007	4	2(2)	—	39(39)	5(5)	—
Meghalaya L.A.	12.3.2007 to 19.4.2007	19	3(3)	—	372	30	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	20.3.2007 to 29.3.2007	7	3(3)	—	99(99)	16(15)	—
Orissa L.A.	21.3.2007 to 2.4.2007	9	2(2)	—	945(766)	1,108(1,439)@	8
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	26.3.2007 to 29.3.2007	3	12(12)	—	-(3)	-(7)	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	22.1.2007 to 27.1.2007 & 22.3.2007 to 14.5.2007	40	30(29)	—	-(2,518)	-(5,228)	13(13)
Tripura L.A.	2.3.2007 to 29.3.2007	13	6(7)	—	474(290)	1,239(871)	3
Uttarakhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	18.1.2007 to 9.5.2007	6	13(13)	—	66(2)	70(98)@	17(16)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	18.1.2007 to 9.5.2007	8	-(13)	—	75(67)	43(41)	27(18)
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	--	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.*	6.1.2007 to 8.3.2007 & 21.3.2007 to 23.4.2007	12	7(7)	—	169(169)	126(126)	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred Questions

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2007

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(1)	—	—	1(1)	—	—	—	2(2)[a]

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	4	1(1)	1(1)	—	—	2	1	3(1)	—	1	—	1	6(3)	1(1)	—	7(1)[b]
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	3(3)	13(1)	1(6)	9(1)	9(1)	—	8	8	—	8	10(1)	8	—	—	—	59(10)[c]
Chhattisgarh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.	2(2)	—	—	—	1(1)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	2(2)	5	—	5(5)	—	6(2)	—	6	—	—	1	—	10	—	—	12(4)[d]
Haryana L.A.	1(1)	15(1)	16	—	9	9(1)	12(1)	9(1)	18(1)	—	4	12	31(2)	—	—	1[e]
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	2(2)	—	—	—	2	6(5)	4(4)	—	7(3)	—	—	1	6(31)	1(1)	—	32(42)[f]
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	2	–(1)	2	—	—	—	2	—	1(1)	—	—	—	6	1(1)	—	3[g]
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	4	6(2)	4	3	4	7	6(1)	5(1)	6(1)	—	4	9	9(2)	—	6	15(2)[h]
Karnataka L.C.	5	5	5	—	2(1)	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	4	3	—	—	—	4(1)	3(1)	1	5(1)	—	—	—	11(1)	—	—	5(1)[i]
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	1	1(3)	—	—	—	1(3)	—	—	1(1)	—	—	—,	1(2)	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	4(2)	2	2	—	—	8(2)	10(1)	1	3	—	1	2	2	—	4	23(1)[j]
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	—	1(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(1)	—	1(1)	—	1(6)	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	6	13(6)	14(18)	—	—	14(56)	12(2)	—	15(15)	—	12	10	13(53)	—	—	11(1)[k]
Tripura L.A.	3(3)	1	2(1)	—	—	–(1)	2(2)	5	1(1)	—	—	—	3(6)	—	2(1)	13(2)[l]

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Uttarakhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	8	9(1)	6	—	—	3(1)	2	—	2(2)	—	—	—	16(2)	—	—	2[m]
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	8	6	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	44[n]
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.	2(2)	1	1	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

(a) Committee on Development of CD-Block-1(1); and Ad-hoc Committee-1(1)

(b) Employment Review Committee-2(1); Act Implementation Committee-1; and Committee on Ethics-4

(c) Question and Calling Attention Committee-9(6); Committee on State Language-9(1); Nivedan Committee-11(2); Committee on Welfare of Minorities-8; Zila Parishad/Panchayati Raj Committee-11(1); and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-11

(d) Members Pay and Allowance Rules Committee-2; Panchayati Raj Committee-7(3); Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-2; and Committee on Absence of Members-1(1)

(e) Press Gallery Committee-1

(f) Welfare Committees-9(12); Public Administration Committee-8(9); Human Development Committee-5(8); General Development Committee-4(8); and Rural Planning Committee-6(5)

(g) Committee on Environment-3

(h) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-5; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-4(1); Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities-5(1); and House Committee on Vinivinc-1

(i) Committee on Empowerment of Women-5(1)

(j) Subject Committee-13; Ethics Committee-2; House Committee on Woman and Child Welfare-3; and House Committee on Submission-5(1)

(k) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-11(1)

(l) Subject Committees-13(2)

(m) Committee on Parliamentary Research, Reference and Studies-1; and Ethics Committee-1

(n) Committee on Reference and Question-3; Committee on Financial and Administrative Delays-7; Committee on Parliamentary Study-12; Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of U.P. Legislature-2; Parliamentary and Social Welfare Committee-6; Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats and Municipal Corporation-8; and Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arangement-6

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD FROM

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2007

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006	3.1.2007
2.	The Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill, 2006	10.1.2007
3.	The English and Foreign Languages University Bill, 2006	10.1.2007
4.	The Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006	10.1.2007
5.	The Tripura University Bill, 2006	10.1.2007
6.	The Sikkim University Bill, 2006	10.1.2007
7.	The Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Bill, 2007	19.3.2007
8.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account, Bill, 2007	22.3.2007
9.	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2007	22.3.2007
10.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2007	22.3.2007
11.	The Appropriation Bill, 2007	22.3.2007
12.	The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007	26.3.2007
13.	The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2007	26.3.2007

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2007

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Arunachal Pradesh Goods Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2007
3. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2007
2. The Assam Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
3. The Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
4. The Assam Electricity Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Industrial Disputes (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2007*
6. The Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund and Pension and Deposit Linked Insurance Fund Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
7. The Assam Co-operative Societies Bill, 2007*
8. The Assam Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007
9. The Assam Private Universities Bill, 2007*
10. The Srimanta Sankar Deva University of Health, Science, Bill, 2007*

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Bihar Nagarpalika Vidheyak, 2007
2. The Bihar Sthaniya Kshetra mein Upayog, Vyavahar athawa bikri hetu malon ke pravesh par kar (Sanshodhan evam Vidhimanyakaran) Vidheyak, 2007
3. The Bihar Vitta Vidheyak, 2007
4. The Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2007
5. The Bihar Ikh (Aapurti evam Kharid ka Viniyaman) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
6. The University of Nalanda Vidheyak, 2007
7. The Bihar Naidanik Sthapan (Niyantran evam Viniyaman) Vidheyak, 2007
8. The Bihar Rajya Viswavidyalay (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
9. The Patna Viswavidyalay (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
10. The Bihar Antar Viswavidyalay Board (Nirasan) Vidheyak, 2007
11. The Bihar Rajya Viswavidyalay (Angibhut Mahavidyalay) Sewa Ayog (Nirasan) Vidheyak, 2007
12. The Bihar Apada Prabandhan (Nirasan) Vidheyak, 2007

13. The Bihar College Sewa Ayog (Nirasan) Vidheyak, 2007
14. The Bihar Vidhan Mandal (Nirhatyayen Nirakaran) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
15. The Bihar Police Vidheyak, 2007
16. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2007
17. The Bihar Intermediate Siksha Parishad (Nirasan) Vidheyak, 2007
18. The Bihar Vidyalaya Pariksha Samiti (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
19. The Bihar Jalkar Prabandhan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2007
2. The Goa Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Goa Vexatious Litigation (Prevention) Bill, 2007
4. The Goa Information Technology Development Bill, 2007
5. The Prisons (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Goa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007
7. The Goa Appropriation (Vote of Account) Bill, 2007
8. The Goa Land Revenue (Notification and Regulation of Grants under Decree No. 3602 dated 24.11.1917) Bill, 2007
9. The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2007
10. The Goa Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007
11. The Goa Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2007

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Gujarat Emergency Medical Services Bill, 2007
2. The Gujarat Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Bombay Provincial Municipal, Corporations (Gujarat Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2007
4. The Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University Bill, 2007
5. The Gujarat Industrial, Development (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2007
6. The Gujarat Industrial, Development (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Gujarat Professional Technical Educational Colleges or Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fees) Bill, 2007
9. The Gujarat Professional Medical Educational Colleges or Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fees) Bill, 2007
10. The Gujarat Tax on Luxuries (Hotel and Lodging Houses) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Gujarat Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
12. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2007
13. The Gujarat Education Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2007
14. The Bombay Electricity Duty (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2007
15. The Bombay Stamp (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2007
16. The Bombay Stamp (Gujarat Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
17. The Gujarat Special Economic Zone (Amendment) Bill, 2007

18. The Gujarat Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
19. The Gujarat Technological University Bill, 2007
20. The Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2007
21. The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2007
22. The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007
23. The Gujarat Water Users Participatory Irrigation Management Bill, 2007
24. The Kadi Sarva Vishwa Vidyalaya Bill, 2007

HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Haryana Amendment Bill, 2007
2. The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Societies Registration (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Punjab Labour Welfare Fund (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Punjab Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays and Casual and Sick Leave) Haryana Amendment Bill, 2007
8. The Haryana Local Area Development Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Haryana Police Bill, 2007*
10. The Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Haryana Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2007
12. The Haryana Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007
13. The Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2007
14. The Haryana Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Amendment Bill, 2007
15. The Punjab Excise (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2007

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2007
2. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007
3. The Himachal Pradesh Hindu Public Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
4. The Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Himachal Pradesh Private Clinical Establishments Registration and Regulation Bill, 2007
6. The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) (Amendment) Bill, 2007

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Bill, 2005
2. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2005

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2006
2. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Bill, 2007
3. The Karnataka Ports (Landing and Shipping Fees) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Karnataka Ayurvedic, Naturopathy, Siddha, Unani and Yoga Practitioners Registration and Medical Practitioners Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Karnataka Land Revenue and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Karnataka Stamp (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Bill, 2007
9. The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2007
10. The Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2007
12. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
13. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2007
14. The Karnataka Stamp (Third Amendment) Bill, 2007
15. The Karnataka Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
16. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007
17. The Karnataka Motor Vehicle Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
18. The Karnataka Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Bill, 2007
19. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2007
20. The Karnataka Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2007
21. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005
2. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2006
3. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Bill, 2007
4. The Karnataka Ayurvedic, Naturopathy, Siddha, Unani and Yoga Practitioners Registration and Medical Practitioners Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Karnataka Land Revenue and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Karnataka Stamp (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Karnataka Private Medical Institutions Bill, 2007
9. The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2007
10. The Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Karnataka Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Bill, 2007
12. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2007
13. The Karnataka Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2007

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMLBY

1. The Manipur Appropriation (No.1), Bill, 2007
2. The Manipur Appropriation (No.2), Bill, 2007

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2007
2. The Meghalaya (Vote-on-Account) Bill, 2007
3. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Nagaland Recovery of Loans Bill, 2007
2. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2007
3. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fees) Bill, 2007
2. The Orissa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2007

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Sikkim Court Fees (Exemption and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2007
2. The Sikkim Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Sikkim State Authority for Planning and Development Bill, 2007
4. The Sikkim Forest, Water Course and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Amendment Bill, 2007
5. The Sikkim Municipalities Bill, 2007
6. The Sikkim Allotment of House Sites and Construction of Building (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2007
8. The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2007 (Whole Budget 2007-2008)
9. The Sikkim Educational Cess on Alcoholic Beverages Bill, 2007
10. The Income Tax and Commercial Division, Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Commerce and Industries Department (Amendment) Bill, 2007
12. The Sikkim Labour Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2007

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Chennai City Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Amendment Bill, 2007
4. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 2007
5. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2007

6. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Tamil Nadu Property (Prevention of Damage and Loss) Amendment Bill, 2007
9. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2007
10. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
12. The Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
13. The Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Disabled Persons Bill, 2007
14. The Tamil Nadu Fishermen and Labourers engaged in Fishing and other Allied Activities (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2007
15. The Tamil Nadu Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Work) Amendment Bill, 2007
16. The Tamil Nadu Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 2007
17. The Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
18. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007
19. The Tamil Nadu Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 2007
20. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Third Amendment) Bill, 2007
21. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2007
22. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2007
23. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2007
24. The Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachment Bill, 2007
25. The Anna University, Tiruchirappalli (Amendment) Bill, 2007
26. The Anna University, Coimbatore (Amendment) Bill, 2007
27. The Anna University, Tirunelveli Bill, 2007
28. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Amendment Bill, 2007
29. The Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2007

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tripura State Legislature Members (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities) Bill, 2006

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Uttar Pradesh High School and Intermediate Colleges (Payment of Salaries of Teachers and Other Employees) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Uttar Pradesh King George's University of Dental Science (Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The King George's Medical University (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Uttar Pradesh Public Services (Tribunal) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Uttar Pradesh Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2007

7. The Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Member's Emoluments and Pension) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Uttar Pradesh Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Bill, 2007
10. The Uttar Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Services Selection Board (Amendment) Bill, 2007
12. The Intermediate Education (Amendment) Bill, 2007
13. The Mohammad Ali Jauhar University (Amendment), Bill, 2007

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Uttar Pradesh Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Uttar Pradesh Public Services (Tribunal) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The King George's Medical University (Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Uttar Pradesh King George's University of Dental Science (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Uttar Pradesh High School and Intermediate Colleges (Payment of Salaries of Teachers and Other Employees) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Uttar Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Uttar Pradesh Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Bill, 2007
10. The Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Services Selection Board (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Member's Emoluments and Pension) (Amendment) Bill, 2007

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* Bills awaiting assent

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2007

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
		UNION GOVERNMENT			
1.	The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	23.01.2007	26.02.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	29.01.2007	26.02.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	29.01.2007	26.02.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Ordinance, 2007	22.02.2007	26.02.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
		BIHAR			
1.	The Bihar Apada Prabandhan (Nirasan), Adhyadesh 2007	—	—	—	—

2.	The Bihar Nagarpalika, Adhyadesh, 2007	—	—	—	—
			GOA		
1.	The Goa Prisons (Goa Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	10.10.2006	22.01.2007	25.01.2007	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Goa Panchayati Raj Legislation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	04.12.2006	22.01.2007	25.01.2007	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Goa Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	05.03.2007	07.03.2007	08.03.2007	Replaced by Legislation
			GUJARAT		
1.	The Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporations (Gujarat Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2006	20.01.2007	22.02.2007	22.02.2007	Replaced by Legislation
			HARYANA		
1.	The Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	23.11.2006	09.03.2007	19.03.2007	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Haryana Local Area Development Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	28.02.2007	09.03.2007	20.03.2007	Replaced by Legislation

		JAMMU AND KASHMIR			
1.	The Jammu and Kashmir State (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	20.11.2006	10.01.2007	—	—
		ORISSA			
1.	The Orissa Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fees) Ordinance, 2007	02.03.2007	22.03.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 12 MAY 2007)

States	No. of Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	SP	RJD	BSP	DMK	SS	BJD	CPI	NCP	JD(U)	SAD	PMK	JMM	TRS	TDP	MD MK	LJSP	AIFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	3	5	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Chhattisgarh	11	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	9	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	4	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	10	—	2	—	—	—	16	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	4	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand	5	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	9	10	—	36	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Nominated	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 12 MAY 2007)

States	JD(S)	RLD	RSP	AGP	J&K NC	KC	AIM IM	AITC	BNP	J&K PDP	MNF	MLK SC	NPF	NLP	RPI (A)	SJP (R)	SDF	IND	TOTAL	VACAN-CIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	1
Karnataka	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	90	—
West Bengal	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Nominated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
UNION TERRITORIES																				
A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	542	3

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIMIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP-Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KPDP- Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC-Kerala Congress; LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF-Mizo National Front; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NLP-National Loktantrik Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)-Republican Party of India(A); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SJP(R)-Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); SP-Samajwadi Party; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithii

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 25 APRIL 2007)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	AIA-DMK	SP	TDP	RJD	BSP	BJD	NCP	JD(U)	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
STATES																	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	10	—	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	1[a]	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	1	3	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	4	1[b]	—	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[c]	1	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[d]	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[e]	2	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[f]	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5[g]	2	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[h]	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[f]	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[@]	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[h]	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	3	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[m]	—	18	—
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttarakhand	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	1	6	—	—	16	—	—	6	—	—	—	2[m]	—	31	—
28.	West Bengal	16	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6[n]	1	15	1
UNION TERRITORIES																	
29.	NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31.	Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9[o]	—	12	—
	TOTAL	245	72	49	13	12	16	6	7	6	4	5	5	41	8	244	1

OTHERS
(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

(a) Communist Party of India-1
(b) Samata Party-1
(c) Indian National Lok Dal-2
(d) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and Peoples' Democratic Party-1
(e) Janata Dal (Secular)-2
(f) Muslim League-2
(g) Shiv Sena-4; and Sadbhavana Party-1
(h) Mizo National Front-1
(i) Nagaland Peoples Front-1
(j) Shiromani Akali Dal-3
(k) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
(l) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-2; and Pattali Makkal Katchi-1
(m) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1; Expelled from Bahujan Samaj Party-1
(n) All India Trinamool Congress-3; Forward Bloc-2; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-1
(o) Nominated-9

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.5.2007)	60	33	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	3[a]	14	60	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C. (1.2.2007)	75	4	14	2	3	—	—	15	—	13[b]	22	73@	1
Chhattisgarh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A. (1.5.2007)	38	18	16	—	—	2	—	—	—	2[c]	—	38	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.5.2007)	182	48	130	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	182	—
Haryana L.A. (1.5.2007)	90	66	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	9[d]	10	89@	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A. (1.5.2007)	68	43	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[e]	6	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A. (1.6.2007)	89	20	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	50[f]	15	89	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A. (8.5.2007)	225	64	79	1	—	—	—	5	57	4[g]	13	223@	1
Karnataka L.C. (5.4.2007)	75	39	14	—	—	—	—	3	14	—	4	74@	—

Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A. (1.5.2007)	60.	29	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	11[h]	10	58	2
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A. (1.5.2007)	147	38	32	1	1	—	—	—	—	67[f]	8	147	—
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A. (1.5.2007)	32	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31[i]	—	32	—
Tamil Nadu L.A. (1.5.2007)	235	34	—	9	6	—	—	—	—	183[k]	1	233[e]	1
Tripura L.A. (1.5.2007)	60	13	—	38	1	—	—	—	—	8[g]	—	60	—
Uttarakhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (1.5.2007)	404	15	83	1	—	—	67	—	—	199[m]	16	381	23
Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.5.2007)	100	3	24	—	—	—	12	—	—	54[n]	4	97	3
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY													
Delhi L.A. (1.5.2007)	70	47	20	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	70	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Excluding Speaker/Chairman

a) Arunachal Congress-2; and Unattached-1

b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-12; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

c) United Goans Democratic Party-1; and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-1

d) Indian National Lok Dal-9

e) Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

f) National Conference-25; Peoples' Democratic Party-17; National Panthers Party-4; Awami League-1; Democratic Movement-1; and Nominated-2

g) Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha-1; Kannada Naadu Paksha-1; Republican Party of India-1; and Nominated-1

h) Manipur Peoples' Party-5; Rashtriya Janata Dal-3; and National Peoples' Party-3

i) Biju Janata Dal-61; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4; and Orissa Gana Parishad-2

j) Sikkim Democratic Front-31

k) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-95; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-60; Pattali Makkal Katchi-18; Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-6; Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi-2; Desia Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam-1 and Nominated-1

l) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra-6

m) Samajwadi Party-151; Lok Tantrik Bahujan Dal-22; Rashtriya Lok Dal-15; Uttar Pradesh Lok Tantrik Congress-2; Akhil Bharatiya Congress-1; Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha-1; Nominated-1; and Unattached-6

n) Samajwadi Party-38; Rashtriya Lok Dal-6; Samajwadi Janata Dal (Rashtriya)-1; and Sikchhak Dal (Non-Political)-9

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